

Hafa Adai!

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75¢

Torres: Improved status bill has a better chance this time

By JON PEREZ
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REPORTER

The effort to grant improved status to qualified guest workers in the CNMI may finally have a strong chance to hurdle the 116th U.S. Congress since the House of Representatives is currently controlled by Democrats—or so Gov. Ralph DLG Torres believes.



Granting improved status to long-term guest workers in the CNMI is part of a legislative fix that U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services director L. Francis Cissna had suggested in order to resolve the issue on the termination of the CNMI parole program.

Last Dec. 27, USCIS terminated the CNMI parole program, affecting close to 2,000 workers that use the program to work and stay in the Commonwealth. That means immediate relatives of U.S. citizens and other stateless individuals, CNMI permanent residents and their IRs, IRs of citizens of Freely Associated States (the Federated States of Micronesia, Palau and Marshall Islands).

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LUNAR NEW YEAR

TanHoldings Corp. vice president Alex Sablan holds up a scroll as he has his picture taken with the lion dance performers. Lion dancers of the Chinese Association of the CNMI performed at the TSL Plaza in Garapan as their first stop last Tuesday.

ERWIN ENCINARES

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In our Wi-Fi world, internet still depends on undersea cables

By NICOLE STAROSIELSKI
New York University
THE CONVERSATION

The Conversation is an independent and nonprofit source of news, analysis and commentary from academic experts.

Recently a digital blackout in Tonga—caused by the severing of the country's only undersea cable—generated widespread recognition of the submerged systems our connected world depends upon.

Not many people realize that un-

dersea cables transport nearly 100 percent of transoceanic data traffic. These lines are laid on the very bottom of the ocean floor. They're about as thick as a garden hose and carry the world's internet, phone calls and

See INTERNET on Page 4

Inmate sues DOC, commissioner, others

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

Former Commonwealth Utilities Corp. board chair Francisco Q. Guerrero, who has been serving a six-year prison term for sexual abuse of

a minor, is suing the Department of Corrections, its commissioner, and several other corrections officers over the injuries he allegedly suffered when he got into an accident last year over DOC's failure to provide him

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BUSINESS

President Trump has a solid economy when he delivers his second State of the Union.

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FOCUS

South Korean women begin to resist the intense beauty pressure.

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LIFE & STYLE

Social media folks went full-on snark over Adam Levine's exposed nipples.

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Local

2 in alleged True Value burglary plead not guilty

By KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA
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REPORTER

The two men who allegedly burglarized the True Value Hardware and the I Love Saipan Pop Up Store have pleaded not guilty to all 16 charges filed against them.

Steven Hasugulgam, 22, and Irwin Duane Teregeyo, 19, were charged with four counts of conspiracy to commit burglary and theft, four counts of burglary, four

counts of theft, and four counts of criminal mischief following the burglary of both the True Value Hardware and the Pop Up Store back in December.

Both Hasugulgam and Teregeyo entered pleas of not guilty to all counts before Superior Court Presiding Judge Robert Naraja.

Hasugulgam and Teregeyo are set for status conferences on March 12.

Police said they received a

call about a burglary and theft incident at True Value Hardware on Beach Road, Garapan and at I Love Saipan Pop Up Store on Middle Road in Chalan Laulau on Dec. 27, 2018.

At 8:33am, police learned that the steel bars leading to the back door of True Value Hardware were pried off the wall and the steel door was pried open too.

In a review of the business establishment's surveillance camera, police saw two in-

dividuals with covered faces breaking the back door and entering at 2:34am.

Police noted that one of the suspects walked with a limp and had a tattoo on his left forearm.

Police said the two suspects proceeded to the cash register and pried it open with a crowbar. The two then took some tools and left through the back door.

On Dec. 27, 2018, at 8:56am, police were informed

that I Love Saipan Pop Up Store was broken into through the back door.

Police reviewed the store's surveillance camera and saw that a white Toyota Corolla had entered the dirt road heading to the back of I Love Saipan. Two men then broke into the back door at 4am.

Police noticed that one of the suspects had a tattoo on his left forearm. The suspects left the store at about 5:28am.

Police concluded that True Value Hardware and I Love Saipan were robbed by the same suspects.

At 11:06am on the same day, police initiated a traffic stop on a white Toyota Corolla at the Sadog Tasi Gas Station for a faulty break light.

Hasugulgam later told police that burglarizing both stores was Teregeyo's idea.

OAG objects to subpoena of prosecutor

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

The Office of the Attorney General objects to a subpoena by a defendant in a sexual abuse case that requires a prosecutor to appear in court and produce documents during her meeting with the alleged victim.

In the government's motion to quash, assistant attorney general Robert "Charlie" Lee said that Joseph Seman Epina's subpoena exceeds the scope of discovery available to him under the NMI Rule of Criminal Procedure.

The documents and communications Epina seek are exempt from discovery and are expressly forbidden under the rule, said Lee in the government's motion filed Monday before the Superior Court.

Epina, through the Office of the Public Defender, served the subpoena on assistant attorney general Teri Tenorio last Jan. 25.

The subpoena requires Tenorio's appearance in court on Feb. 15, 2019. The subpoena also seeks privileged communications and the work product of the OAG.

Epina's subpoena directs Tenorio to produce all documents indicating dates that she met with the victim, all communications between her and the victim, and all reports drafted, edited, reviewed, or received by Tenorio that refer to meetings with the victim.

Superior Court Associate Judge Joseph N. Camacho set the hearing on the government's motion to quash for Feb. 15 at 9am.

The 44-year-old Epina is facing charges of raping a then-12-year-old girl on Saipan on March 12, 2016. The girl told police that it was not the first time that he had sexually assaulted her.

OAG charged Epina with

Police noticed a red beanie, several G-Shock containers, and a red drone on the back-seat floor of the vehicle.

When asked for his driver's license, the operator of the vehicle said he did not have any. Police also observed that the driver had a tattoo on his left forearm.

Police said employees of both business establishments identified the items in the vehicle as the stolen items.

The other items recovered by the police included a generator, two duffle bags containing assorted clothing and watches, portable chargers, and anti-theft devices.

Hasugulgam later told police that burglarizing both stores was Teregeyo's idea.

sexual assault of a minor in the first degree, assault and battery, and disturbing the peace.

In the government's objection, Lee said the subpoena broadly defines "documents" to include government memoranda, notes, emails, minute records, employment files, case files, correspondence, and various other articles.

Lee said the subpoena contains an even broader definition of "communications."

Lee said the subpoena for Tenorio seeks such a "broad and ill-defined range of information that compliance with the subpoenas would be unreasonable and oppressive, especially in light of a prosecutor's need to speak with a victim in preparation for a hearing or a trial."

Lee said Epina has shown no compelling need for Tenorio's testimony.

Lee said the subpoena is not a discovery tool, and that it must be targeted at a specific issue.

Lee said Epina has already received all recorded and written statements made by the victim, and has even cross-examined the girl at a hearing in July 2018 regarding the statements she made about the alleged offense.

He said the subpoena for Tenorio is directed at a government attorney, and the rule protects the work of government attorneys from disclosure—even if they pertain to communications with the victim.

Citing precedent, Lee said the court rejected a defendant's claim that he was entitled to the notes of an AAG because they contained witness statements.

Lee said in that precedent, the court held that even if the notes contained witness statements, they were internal documents exempted from disclosure.

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Glass believes man is liable to pay over \$1K in restitution

By KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA
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REPORTER

The government lawyer in a case involving a man who allegedly ran over, killed, and abandoned a 21-year-old man in Puerto Rico, Saipan believes that the family of the victim is entitled to more than \$1,000 in restitution.

Assistant attorney general Robert Glass said that full restitution to the victim's family should be more than \$1,000. He has submitted a request for a hearing to determine the exact amount. Glass filed the motion for a restitution hearing last Friday.

According to the filed motion, Glass said the parties in *Commonwealth v. Esekiel Smith* may have already agreed to the minimum amount of \$1,000 as restitution, the Commonwealth believes full restitution will be more than \$1,000.

The Office of the Attorney General is requesting a hearing to determine the exact amount of restitution and the structure of payments to the victim's family.



Camacho

The first \$1,000 was paid out to the victim's next of kin out of Smith's posted bail.

Last week, Superior Court Associate Judge Joseph Camacho sentenced Smith, 31, to serve a five-year and six-month imprisonment sentence, with six months suspended for an auto-pedestrian incident that killed the 21-year-old man. Smith was given credit for the 180 days he had already served.

Smith, who appeared out of custody, was escorted back to the Department of Public Safety to serve his sentence immediately.

Camacho also said that Smith would be eligible for work release, something he doesn't allow very often.

Camacho said that he would allow Smith's work release while he serves his sentence because he appreciated that Smith showed great remorse for his crime. "The fact that you turned yourself in carries a lot of weight," Camacho said during sentencing.

Work release means that Smith would be able to work while incarcerated.

Aside from imprisonment, Smith will also serve probation after he is released, and would pay court fines and restitution to the family of the victim.

Smith pleaded guilty to leaving the scene of the accident and reckless driving.

On Aug. 19, 2018 at approximately 3:37am, DPS received a call about an auto-pedestrian incident near the Commonwealth Utility Corp. power plant.

Upon arriving at the scene, officers met with the caller who had reported the incident.

According to the caller, he was heading north when he noticed a man lying on the ground. He immediately stopped to call authorities.

DPS reported that the victim had injuries, was unconscious, and was partially lying on the shoulder of the northbound outer lane.

Medics arrived shortly after and rushed the victim to the Commonwealth Health Center where he was pronounced dead at 4:01am.

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Superior Court qualifies Dreary as an expert

By KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA
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REPORTER

The Superior Court has qualified the Office of the Attorney General's expert as an actual expert in sexual abuse examinations and will allow him to testify his findings.

Superior Court Presiding Judge Robert Naraja denied, in part, the order of limine

filed by defense lawyer Bruce Berline in the case of Manolo Romolor. Romolor is charged with sexual assault in the first degree and assault and battery.

Berline filed an order of limine to exclude Dr. Michael Dreary as an expert in the trial.

Order of limine is a motion filed by a party to a lawsuit which asks the court for an order or ruling limiting or pre-

venting certain evidence from being presented by the other side at the trial of the case.

The Superior Court denied part of the filed order because the court found that Dreary qualifies as an expert in sexual assault examinations due to his extensive background in obstetrics and gynecology.

"The subject matter of Dr. Dreary's proposed expert

testimony is well within Dr. Dreary's knowledge, skill, experience, and education," the court order states.

The Superior Court did grant part of the defense's filed order by excluding Dreary from giving any testimony on the common misconceptions regarding the medical diagnosis of sexual assault patients.

"It is clear to the court that it

is a bridge too far for Dr. Dreary to be qualified as an expert on sexual assault misconceptions. The court would like to make it clear that Dr. Dreary is not allowed to testify at in any way regarding any misconceptions associated with sexual assault. Dreary can testify to his medical findings and medical opinions of his sexual assault examination for the alleged victim," the court order states.

The jury trial for Romolor is

set for Feb. 11, 2019.

Police said Romolor admitted sexually assaulting the victim and that he only stopped when their other friend punched him thrice.

According to the victim, she had attended a small party at a friend's apartment when the incident happened in 2016.

The victim said she took five shots of liquor and that she became drunk and her friend's wife helped her inside her bedroom where she slept.

500 Sails sets Boat Nights schedule

500 Sails has announced its Boat Night schedule for February 2019. It is opening its doors to volunteers who want to help build canoes from modern materials using traditional designs.

Boat Nights take place at the 500 Sails' boatyard in lower base, next to the Department of Lands and Natural Resources. The program's goal is to get canoes into the daily lives of the community

and can result in ownership of one's own canoe.

Boat Nights will be ongoing on Wednesdays and Thursdays from 6pm to 9pm throughout February and March. Also, new this month is an additional Boat Night on Saturdays from 1pm to 5pm.

Teens are allowed with accompanying and participating adult guardian. Participation is free.

For more information contact Pete Perez at pperez@500sails.org, see the 500 Sails Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/500sails/>. (PR)

INTERNET

From Page 1

even TV transmissions between continents at the speed of light. A single cable can carry tens of terabits of information per second.

While researching my book *The Undersea Network*, I realized that the cables we all rely on to send everything from email to banking information across the seas remain largely unregulated and undefended. Although they are laid by only a few companies – including the American company SubCom and the French company Alcatel-Lucent – and often funneled along narrow paths, the ocean's vastness has often provided them protection. When one is broken, as the Tonga cable was this week, data traffic comes to a halt.

Far from wireless

The fact that we route internet traffic through the ocean – amidst deep-sea creatures and hydrothermal vents – runs counter to most people's

imaginings of the internet. Didn't we develop satellites and Wi-Fi to transmit signals through the air? Haven't we moved to the cloud? Undersea cable systems sound like a thing of the past.

The reality is that the cloud is actually under the ocean. Even though they might seem behind the times, fiber optic cables are actually state-of-the-art global communications technologies. Since they use light to encode information and remain unfettered by weather, cables carry data faster and cheaper than satellites. They crisscross the continents too – a message from New York to California also travels by fiber optic cable. These systems are not going to be replaced by aerial communications anytime soon.

A vulnerable system?

The biggest problem with cable systems is not technological – it's human. Because they run underground, underwater and between telephone poles, cable systems populate the same spaces people do. As a result, they're accidentally

tally broken all the time. Local construction projects dig up terrestrial lines. Boaters drop anchors on cables. And submarines can pinpoint systems under the sea.

Most media coverage about these systems has been dominated by the question of vulnerability. Are global communications networks really at risk of disruption? What would happen if these cables were cut? Should we all be worrying about a digital blackout – whether caused by accident or terrorists?

The answer to this is not black and white. Any individual cable is always at risk, but likely far more so from boaters and fishermen than any saboteur. Over history, the single largest cause of disruption has been people unintentionally dropping anchors and nets. The International Cable Protection Committee has been working for years to prevent such breaks.

As a result, cables today are covered in steel armor and buried beneath the seafloor at their shore-ends, where the human threat is most concentrated.

This provides some level of protection. In the deep sea, the ocean's inaccessibility largely safeguards cables – they need only to be covered with a thin polyethylene sheath. It's not that it's much more difficult to sever cables in the deep ocean, it's just that the primary forms of interference are less likely to happen. The sea is so big and the cables are so narrow, the probability isn't that high that you'd run across one.

Sabotage has actually been rare in the history of undersea cables. There are certainly occurrences (though none recently), but these are disproportionately publicized. The World War I German raid of the Fanning Island cable station in the Pacific Ocean gets a lot of attention. And there was speculation about sabotage in the cable disruptions outside Alexandria, Egypt in 2008, which cut 70 percent of the country's internet, affecting millions. Yet you hear little about the regular faults that occur, on average, about 200 times each year.

and I offer my support to your efforts in Congress."

Sablan has already introduced two pieces of legislation—H.R. 559 and 560—more than two weeks after the opening of the 116th Congress. Both bills hope to give permanent status to qualified individuals in the CNMI.

The two bills hope to address the status of workers under the humanitarian parole program and employment authorization document, as well as long-term workers and foreign investors. The legislation also aims to save the status of close to 2,000 workers affected by USCIS' decision.

Granting long-term guest workers improved status has been a contentious and lengthy labor and immigration issue in the CNMI, a move that had been attempted several times but have proven futile.

SCS 2ND QUARTER HONOR LIST

Principal's list-4.00

- One An - 8th grade
- Seo Young Baek - 8th grade
- Tiana Cabrera - 8th grade
- Katie Choi - 8th grade
- Amena Mahmud - 8th grade
- Angel Ren - 8th grade
- Jesus Sablan - 8th grade

"B" Honor Roll 3.00 to 3.49

(No grades below a C)

- Isaiah Aleksenko - 7th grade
- Miles Borja - 8th grade
- Anika Camacho - 8th grade
- Edward Diaz - 8th grade
- Dongyeon (Daniel) Kang - 8th grade
- Grace Kim - 8th grade
- Charles McDonald - 8th grade
- Hana Ojima - 8th grade
- Jung Hyoun (Rina) Park - 8th grade
- Mikaela Rabago - 6th grade
- Christopher Miles Timmons - 8th grade
- Tiana Torres - 7th grade
- Soledad Sablan - 6th grade
- Vicky Wang - 8th grade
- Jacky Zhen - 6th grade

INMATE

From Page 1

the prescribed eye drops and eyeglasses.

In a complaint he filed without a lawyer, Guerrero named the DOC, Corrections Commissioner Vince Attao, then-DOC commissioner Georgia M. Cabrera, and sever other DOC officers as defendants.

Guerrero alleged that the delays in his eye treatment and failure to provide him with prescribed eye drops on two occasions, and delay in providing prescribed eyeglasses caused him pain and suffering and his cracked right rib.

Guerrero said Attao ignored his pleas for help, in writing, last May 15 and Sept. 21.

He said his wife also called Attao and his office, asking for help.

He said Cabrera denied him dental treatment despite a recommendation of a Dental Care dentist to replace his teeth.

Guerrero said Cabrera told a DOC nurse and a medical officer that DOC will not replace his dentures because DOC only provides teeth extraction.

He, however, noted that on Aug. 4, 2016, Cabrera appeared before the Senate Committee Fiscal Affairs during a budget hearing in which she stated that the governor has allocated \$2 million for the inmates' health care.

Guerrero said the DOC medical officers failed to give him the prescribed eye drops

after a cataract surgery on his left eye in October 2017.

He said that in March 2018, he was examined by a Marianas Eye Institute doctor, but the DOC medical officers again failed to give him the prescribed eye drops.

In July 2018, Guerrero said he was prescribed new eyeglasses, but the officers took a long time to pick it up at the Marianas Eye Institute. On last July 16, he got into an accident and his right lower rib was injured since he was seeing double while using his old eyeglasses, he said.

It was only last November when he was prescribed eyeglasses, he said.

Guerrero said after the July 16 accident, he requested an X-ray of his right lower rib.

He said he was denied that; the DOC's reason was that there is no bone doctor.

Guerrero said that last Nov. 16, he was brought to Dental Care because he was suffering pain and continuous bleeding due to his six teeth extraction.

He said the dentist gave him pain medicine and antibiotics, but the escort officers took them away from him.

Guerrero was convicted of 11 charges relating to sexual abuse of a minor. He started serving the six-year prison term on Dec. 1, 2013.

More than 10 inmates have already filed separate lawsuits in federal court against DOC and its current and former officials and officers for various reasons.

STATUS

From Page 1

cronesia, the Republic of the Marshall Islands, and the Republic of Palau), and caregivers of CNMI residents.

That prompted Torres to write Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (Ind-MP) to inform him that he supports any legislation that would fix the problem. "As you are aware, on Dec. 27, 2018, the U.S. Department of Homeland Security announced their decision to terminate the humanitarian parole program in the CNMI, impacting hundreds of individuals who have lived and called the CNMI home for years."

"In a recent [phone] call with USCIS director Cisneros, he informed me of the administration's interest in

securing a legislative remedy that will allow these impacted individuals to remain in the CNMI."

He added that his administration is throwing its full support behind the issue, since it is a matter that needs congressional action. "I write to you in support of this effort to request your assistance in working collaboratively with the CNMI government and the Trump administration to navigate this issue through the U.S. Congress."

Torres said that granting improved status to long-term guest workers is an issue that he has already discussed with Sablan. "For years, we have discussed the issue of improved status and, on multiple occasions, I have offered my support and assistance in making this long-held goal a reality."

Apatang reactivates program to remove junk cars

Saipan Mayor David M. Apatang expects to see an increase in the number of junk cars after his office recently renewed its effort to rid the island of abandoned vehicles that are eyesores and health hazards in the community.

Apatang noted in an interview with *Saipan Tribune* yesterday that he is expecting a higher number of requests coming in to take care of abandoned cars, especially since Super Typhoon Yutu cleanup is ongoing.

Apatang's office reactivated the junk car collection program last week after it got pushed to the side in order to prioritize the office's cleanup effort following Yutu.

"When you drive around [Saipan] there are a lot of cars smashed up," said Apatang. "We are just waiting for the owners to [ask us] to pick them up."

Junk cars are then brought to a third-party recycling center before it is prepared for scrap metal recycling.

"We were concentrating on the typhoon first. Now that our dump truck is out of the shop and there are a lot of requests for junk car removals, we are working on that now also," he said.

Saipan Mayor's Office field operations director Joann Aquino told *Saipan Tribune* that junk car removal requests have started to pile into a large backlog.

"... We have a lot of junk car removal requests since October 2018, when we have been

full force in debris collection across Saipan, and not on junk car removal," she said.

The office's lone claw truck was used for debris removal instead of the usual junk car removal.

Aquino said the claw truck could hold up to two cars at a time and is usually working with an 8-cubic yard dump truck, which could fit about two cars as well.

From Oct. 26, 2018, up to Feb. 3, 2019, the Saipan Mayor's Office has collected over 102,000 cubic yards of debris from Yutu.

Bill to widen CCC powers in the works

The Commonwealth Casino Commission will be working closely with the 21st CNMI Legislature and the CNMI Office of the Attorney General in crafting legislation that would clarify and widen its regulatory functions.

The legislation went back to the drawing board after House Bill 20-82, House Draft 1, Senate Draft 1 failed to get the needed three-fourths vote in the House during a lame duck session in the 20th Legislature.

House Bill 20-82, introduced by then-representatives Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero, would have clarified some of CCC's powers due to its unique regulatory powers and oversight of the casino gaming industry.

CCC chair Juan M. Sablan said it is important that they meet with members of the Legislature, especially the gaming committees of both the House and the Senate.

"We have to meet with the new Legislature again and address this issue once and for all. This has been going since day one when we were appointed. We're trying to help the Legislature and the government to perhaps regulate poker, eliminate crimes, and get some...more revenue for the CNMI," said Sablan.

He said in a previous interview that they would again push for the measures embodied in H.B. 20-82 in the 21st Legislature. "It is important that we meet with the new Legislature. [HB 20-82] was passed unanimously but got killed after the OAG gave its opinion."

"... We're here to regulate and protect the industry and the public. That is what's important. We're not yet done and we have to continue this in the [21st] Legislature."

The legislation that CCC would be working on would place the regulatory and oversight powers of e-gaming, lottery, pachinko, and poker under the commission. The same efforts were also introduced in the 18th and 19th legislatures.

Sablan said poker also needs to be monitored closely. "Personally, [I think poker] is not monitored correctly. They are in our villages with issues on security, lighting, and even equipment. The government has to address that issue

and the Legislature needs a bill to put that perhaps under CCC's responsibilities. We've been trained and we have the capability."

CCC executive director Edward Deleon Guerrero said that if they were given a new regulatory jurisdiction, then they would also need additional funding that would allow them to implement their duties. "When we regulate, we just don't take the fees and walk away. We regulate, we look at

personnel, facilities, and procedures. We look at everything."

"We need additional manpower for some sort of legislation that may affect the regulatory regime of poker, pachinko, e-gaming, and lottery. Right now, we are only doing casino, but I think it actually makes a good public policy that you put under one umbrella the regulatory functions so you don't have too many agencies and activities doing the same thing."

Deleon Guerrero cited Australia as an example where

gaming and alcohol are under one regulatory body.

He said there are people that say that it is not CCC's job to check on labor and immigration issues since some of it fall under the federal government's jurisdiction. "But if something goes wrong, suddenly that's your job. What we're saying is, if you're going to give us responsibility then give us the ability, resources, funding, and authority to do it. You can't give us responsibility and expect us to do miracles." (Jon Perez)

"We are trying to catch up and go back to our previous requests that were filed. We are trying to address those requests," she said. "We started in As Lito and Gualo Rai."

As of yesterday, their staff

had completed removing junk cars in As Lito.

To get a junk car removed, you may call the Saipan Mayor's Office to submit a request at 234-6208. (Erwin Encinare)

CEC wants polling sites for special poll back at Garapan, Oleai schools

The Commonwealth Election Commission wants to hold the March 23 special election at the Garapan and Oleai elementary schools—the traditional polling places for Precinct 3 voters.

Due to typhoon damage at the Garapan and Oleai schools, the polling sites for Precinct 3 voters last November were moved to Garapan Central Park and at the Marianas Visitors Authority office in Oleai/San Jose.

CEC executive director Julita Villagomez said yesterday that they had already asked the Public School System to allow them to use the cafeterias of the Garapan and Oleai schools.

"We want to go back to the old system," she said.

They were told that the Oleai school is still renovating its

cafeteria. Villagomez said they asked for a classroom instead.

Villagomez said they are still awaiting reply from Education Commissioner Glenn Muñoz.

As of last Jan. 28, there were 3,361 registered voters for Precinct 3.

CEC closed the registration for Precinct 3 last Jan. 23.

The special election became necessary with the demise of Rep. Francisco D. Dela Cruz last month. (Ferdie de la Torre)

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THE DIVISION OF COASTAL RESOURCES MANAGEMENT

SUMMER INTERNSHIP

WE ARE LOOKING FOR 15 CNMI-BASED COLLEGE STUDENTS, OR COLLEGE-BOUND HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATES WITH AN INTEREST IN LEARNING MORE ABOUT CORAL REEF AND COASTAL ZONE RESOURCE MANAGEMENT. OUR SUMMER INTERNS WORK 20 HOURS A WEEK BETWEEN JUNE AND AUGUST (DATES TO BE DETERMINED) AND ARE PAID \$8.00 PER HOUR.

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REGULATORY COMPLIANCE
SPECIAL AREA MANAGEMENT

TO BE CONSIDERED, PLEASE SUBMIT ALL OF THE FOLLOWING DOCUMENTS BY MARCH 15, 2019 TO THE DCRM OFFICE IN MIDDLE ROAD, GUALO RAI OR BY EMAIL TO OUTREACH@DCRM.GOV.MP



- CNMI EMPLOYMENT APPLICATION (which can be found at www.cnmiopm.net)
- COVER LETTER
- RESUME/CV
- TRANSCRIPTS (official or unofficial)
- TWO (2) LETTERS OF RECOMMENDATION (instructors and/or employers only)
- POLICE CLEARANCE (within the last 3 months)
- COPY OF PHOTO ID (driver's license, passport, etc.)

IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS OR CONCERNs ABOUT THIS APPLICATION, PLEASE EMAIL JIHAN YOUNIS AT OUTREACH@DCRM.GOV.MP OR MALLORY MUNA AT MMUNA@DCRM.GOV.MP OR CALL THE DIVISION OF COASTAL RESOURCES MANAGEMENT AT 664-8300.

Democrats support medicinal marijuana but...

By KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA
kimberly_bautista@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The CNMI Democratic Party supports medicinal marijuana but believes that further study should be done before approving recreational marijuana.

According to CNMI Demo-

cratic Party chair Nola Hix, the Democrats have reached a unanimous decision that they agree with the enactment of medicinal marijuana but they still have questions about its recreational use.

"We have basically reached a consensus in regards to

agreeing with the cannabis bill in regards to the medicinal part. I think there are a ton of questions that have been raised with regards to the recreational part," she said.

Although many see recreational marijuana as a means of economic growth, there is

still research to be done on its effects, Hix said.

"I know that a lot of people see this as economically a great thing but we really need to be prepared. We really need to do some homework on where it's recreational now—to see

what's happening, what are the issues—because a lot of people have been bringing it up and because we're such a small island, we need to be prepared to address the stuff moving forward," she said.

"I know it's been passed [but] I think there are several

concerns from a lot of constituents with regards to the recreational part. We all need to work on addressing some of the issues before we just roll this out," she added.

Hix is personally concerned about where the money will come from in terms of the Cannabis Commission's salaries.

"My biggest concern is that they mirrored the casino bill with regards to the commission. The commission that they're looking to bring on board is going to be paid \$65,000 a year. Where is that money coming from? Is that taxpayers' money and that's my biggest concern," she said.

Hix used the casino as an example. According to Hix, if the CNMI struggles with the regulation of the casino, it would be even more challenging to regulate recreational cannabis.

"If we can barely even regulate a casino, what makes us think we are experts in the cannabis field? We want to be. I know Ralph DLG Torres is proud to be the first to get it passed, but we are not cannabis experts, just as we weren't casino experts," she said.

'Lions' raid businesses in celebration of Lunar New Year

By ERWIN ENCINARES
erwin_encinares@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Chinese Association of the CNMI performed traditional lion dances in several businesses throughout Saipan yesterday in celebration of the Lunar New Year.

Lion dances are customary during celebration of the Lunar New Year and signifies the richness of the Chinese culture.

"We share that culture with other countries like [Saipan], we share the culture to the local people," said Chinese Association of the CNMI's Rose Chan.

Chan said the lion dance goes hand in hand with fireworks and percussive instruments—traditionally symbolic to drive away evil spirits and bring luck to a business establishment.

"...We expel evil spirits and wild animals with the lion dance. They chase away evil so when the drum beats, it scares



Canton Restaurant guests enjoy the lion dance performance during lunch last Tuesday.

ERWIN ENCINARES

the evil spirits. When wild animals hear the firecrackers, they stay away," she said. "When there are no more evil spirits and wild animals, the good luck enters and keeps coming."

The lion dance also serves as a fundraiser for the Chinese Education Center in Chinatown. The education center teaches Cantonese to those of Chinese descent and others interested. Chan is currently the school's principal.

"[The students] go to regular English classes in the morning and in the evening they go to the Chinese Education Center to learn their culture and their language," she said.

She noted that their target is to raise about \$10,000 annually, and the association had been conducting lion dances since 1987, back when their president was Tan Siu Lin, father of Tan Holdings president and chief executive officer Jerry Tan.

'Earthquakes regularly occur in Marianas'

By KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA
kimberly_bautista@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The islands within the Marianas archipelago are prone to regular earthquakes because it is part of the Pacific Ring of Fire. In fact, tremors happen almost daily in the Marianas region but they are usually not strong enough to be felt by people, according to Homeland Security Emergency Management Office information officer Nadine Deleon Guerrero.

Over the past week, multiple earthquakes have shaken the Northern Mariana Islands ranging from a 4.0 magnitude tremor to over a 5.0 magnitude quake.

At 10:54am last Jan. 30, a 4.1-magnitude earthquake occurred 67 kilometers south

southwest of Pagan. There were no reports of personnel injuries or damages to infrastructure and no tsunami warnings or advisories were issued by the Pacific Tsunami Warning Center.

At 7:16am last Feb. 1, a 5.0-magnitude earthquake occurred 172 kilometers northwest of Farallon de Pajaros. There were no reports of personnel injuries or damage to infrastructure and no tsunami warnings or advisories were issued.

HSEM also reported that at 2:22am last Feb. 2, a 6.5-magnitude earthquake occurred 14.8 north and 92.4 west of Chiapas, Mexico. There were no reports of personnel injuries or damage to infrastructure and no tsunami warnings or advisories were issued.

Over the past week, multiple earthquakes have shaken the Northern Mariana Islands ranging from a 4.0 magnitude tremor to over a 5.0 magnitude quake.

At 10:54am last Jan. 30,

a 4.1-magnitude earthquake occurred 67 kilometers south

The Pacific Ring of Fire, or the Circum-Pacific Belt, is a U-shaped area in the Pacific Ocean basin that is made up of about 452 dormant and active volcanoes. The Pacific Ring of Fire is known for the continuous earthquakes influenced by the numerous active volcanoes in the region.

According to an online source, the volcanic activity in the area is a result of the region being close to numerous tectonic plates that are in constant motion and collision. For this reason, the Pacific Ring of Fire is an active location for volcanoes and earthquakes.

The Marianas, being a part of the Pacific Ring of Fire, is prone to experience tremors because of the amount of activity in the area.

Man in alleged machete attack pleads guilty

The man who allegedly slapped and attacked another man with a machete has pleaded guilty.

Daniel Shadel, 33, pleaded guilty yesterday to assault and battery and disturbing the peace and was sentenced to 364 days in prison.

His sentence was suspended except for the 31 days he has already served.

Shadel was also sentenced to probation for 364 days and was required to pay court fees, probation fees, and to serve 100

hours of community service.

Shadel's bail of \$1,000 was exonerated.

Shadel was arrested last year for assault with a dangerous weapon, assault and battery, and disturbing the peace.

According to police, the victim was with some of his friends at a home of another friend in Koblerville on March 3, 2018, when Shadel arrived, slapped the victim in the face, retrieved a machete from his car, and allegedly swung the machete at the victim. (Kimberly A. Bautista)

Legislative Bureau

NORTHERN MARIANAS COMMONWEALTH LEGISLATURE
P.O. BOX 500586, SAIPAN, MP 96950



JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

Examination Announcement Number: LB-JVA-19-001
PL-UNGRADED: \$1,148.36 B/W

Position: Legislative Assistant
Opening Date: January 17, 2019
Closing Date: February 07, 2019

The salary will be determined by the qualification of the appointee

Location: Honorable Jesus P. Mafnas Memorial Building (CNMI Legislature), Capitol Hill, Saipan

General Duties:

- Drafts legislative documents including but not limited to resolutions, committee reports, and letters, as requested by the Chairperson of the Committee to which he or she is assigned to;
- Attends legislative session and committee meetings as requested by the Chairperson of his or her assigned committee;
- Performs investigative and legislative research and analysis;
- Prepares reports and studies including preparation of letters, legislation, and related documents as requested by members of his or her assigned respective legislative house;
- Maintains a reasonable record of all tasks assigned by his or her immediate supervisor Chairperson of the Committee or other members of his or her assigned respective legislative house and such record is subject to review upon request; and
- Performs other duties as assigned.

Qualifications and Requirements:

- Possess four years relevant work experience or a minimum of an AA or AS degree or higher from a United States accredited institution of higher education with one year of legislative work experience;
- Possess ample knowledge of the legislative process;
- Excellent research, analytical, and strong writing skills; and
- Ability to produce results within limited time frames and work under pressure on a daily basis; and
- Undergo a pre-employment drug test.

Education and training claimed under item 19(A) through 19(F) of the Application for Employment must be substantiated by a copy of an official diploma and/or certificate. **Failure to provide the required documents will result in automatic disqualification. All applicants may be subject to further interviews and examinations(i.e. writing assignment) to determine qualification.**

Employment application may be accessed at www.cnmileg.gov.mp or may be picked up at the Office of the Director of the Legislative Bureau located at the Honorable Jesus P. Mafnas Memorial Building (CNMI Legislature), Capitol Hill, Saipan. Completed application and police clearance may be submitted to the Office of the Director or may be mailed to the Office of the Director; Legislative Bureau; P.O. Box 500586; Saipan, MP 96950. No telephone inquiries.

Lion Dance for Lunar New Year



The lion dance performers enter the JP Center in Garapan last Tuesday.

ERWIN ENCINARES



The Chinese Association of the CNMI circle every corner of the TSL Plaza office during a lion dance performance last Tuesday.

ERWIN ENCINARES

Lion dancers of the Chinese Association of the CNMI enter the TSL Plaza in Garapan as their first stop for Tuesday.

ERWIN ENCINARES



The lion dance performers were a hit at the Shirley's Coffee Shop and Restaurant in Garapan.

ERWIN ENCINARES



The lion dance performers entertain a busy Canton Restaurant during lunch.

ERWIN ENCINARES



Similar to the other businesses, the lion dance performers visited every corner of Canton Restaurant, including the kitchen.

ERWIN ENCINARES



The lion dance performers wait in front of Canton Restaurant before the fireworks were deployed.

ERWIN ENCINARES

7 graduate from ABE program on Tinian

By ERWIN ENCINARES
erwin_encinaires@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Seven individuals on Tinian have completed a federally funded program that allows adults to obtain their high school certificates.

Tinian students Herman P.

Kilili: US workers are not political pawns

By JON PEREZ
jon_perez@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (Ind-MP) has scored President Donald Trump for his insistence on building a wall at the U.S.-Mexican border. Trump is once again threatening to shut down the government.

The federal government already shut down on Dec. 22 and resumed operations on Jan. 29.

Sablan told *Saipan Tribune* that Trump's demand to fund the construction of "a wasteful and ineffective wall" should not be a reason to shut down the operations of the government. "Governments should not shut down over policy disagreements."

"America's workers should never be used as political pawns—and [last week], Democrats are proud to bring legislation to the floor to give the entire federal civilian workforce a pay raise, providing relief after years of GOP political attacks, pay freezes,

Aldan, Zachery P. Manglona, Isidro C. Tudela, Larry J. Indalecio, Jay B. San Nicolas, Blane C. Martinez II Jr., and Dennis S. Reyes graduated from their Adult Basic Education Program at the Antonio M. Borja Ampitheater at the Natib Park in Tinian.

The ABE Program is a program that allows its graduates to earn a high school equivalency diploma, which is equivalent to a high school diploma.

Tinian Mayor Edwin Aldan, Tinian Sens Jude Hofschneider (R-Tinian), Francisco Borja, Francisco Cruz (R-Tinian),

and (R-Tinian), attended the event over the weekend, including members of the Tinian Municipal Council, Tinian Northern Marianas College staff, and NMC interim president Frankie Eliptico.

"We are very proud for your accomplishments today,"

Eliptico said in his speech, referring to the graduates. "Obtaining your high school diploma marks a major milestone in your lives, and, more importantly, opens many more doors of opportunity."

Eliptico noted that obtaining a high school diploma is one of few steps toward earning a college degree.

"We already have a number of students from Tinian who were in your shoes and who are now on their way to their college degrees. Please know that whether you decide to continue your education toward a college degree immediately after this [graduation] or whether you decide to consider enrolling later, know that we will always be looking forward to welcoming you at NMC," he added.

"In completing the ABE program, you have opened so many doors for yourself. You are now able to attend college. You are eligible to work for the civil service. With some

college courses, you can join the military. There are so many possibilities," Tinian Mayor Edwin Aldan noted in his congratulatory remarks.

"You are here because you've made great progress in your personal and professional lives. And in doing so, you've indirectly improved the lives of those around you. You open doors not only for yourself, but for your families and you set a wonderful example for your peers. In bettering yourselves, you have made our island better," he added.

According to a statement from NMC, the Tinian campus has been graduating students from the ABE program since 2004, many of whom now hold jobs such as senior technicians at the Commonwealth Utilities Corp., ranking officers at the Commonwealth Ports Police, and a plumber at CUC.

One, the college noted, even pursued an associate degree and is now a teacher aide at the Tinian High School.

GRMC passes CMS follow-up inspection

DEDEDO, Guam—The Guam Regional Medical City has received passing marks from the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services following a recent follow-up inspection at the hospital.

The CMS paid an unannounced visit to GRMC last week on Wednesday, Jan. 30, 2019, to conduct the follow-up survey.

Upon completion of a thorough inspection, GRMC was informed Friday that it had passed the follow-up survey and is in full compliance with The Emergency Medical Treatment and Labor Act.

EMTALA is a federal law that requires emergency departments to stabilize and treat all patients, regardless of their insurance status or ability to pay for treatment.

"We are very pleased that GRMC has passed the CMS' follow-up survey inspection,"

said Emergency Department nurse manager Sarah Betcher. "It's a testament to the hard work our staff puts in to keeping GRMC a hospital that can be trusted to provide the best care for Guam."

GRMC's success with the CMS survey inspection last week is another in a series for the hospital. In November 2018, GRMC was re-accredited by The Joint Commission for another three years following a three-day inspection.

Later that same month, GRMC's laboratory received accreditation from the prestigious Accreditation Committee of the College of American Pathologists, which the U.S. federal government recognizes as being equal-to or more-stringent-than their own inspection program.

"Passing CMS inspections and receiving TJC and CAP

accreditations with no conditional findings are achievements we value. However, they are never the end goal for GRMC. In fact, we treat these surveys as catalysts for finding new opportunities for improvement," said chief medical officer Felix T. Cabrera. "Our patients count on us to continually make strides to improve the quality of the healthcare we deliver."

CEO and president Michael Cruz, M.D. agreed. "Achieving these important accreditations and passing inspections is critical to maintaining the public's trust in GRMC. I am very proud of our team for their professional response to an unexpected visit by the CMS and for coming through with flying colors to ensure GRMC will continue providing excellent healthcare for Guam." (PR)

China school donates recycling bins

By ERWIN ENCINARES
erwin_encinaires@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

An international school in China donated recycling bins to a school on Saipan last week under the project called 2017-2018 Exhibition Ocean Pollution.

The International School of Tianjin donated \$400 worth of recycling bins to the Brilliant Star Montessori School on Navy Hill.

Ocean Plus Saipan Dive Shop personnel Ning Ning Li told *Saipan Tribune* that a student of the school, You Yan Zhao, led the project.

"[They] made recycling bags...[and sold] paintings

in an exhibition [in China]," she said in an email. "They donated a total of \$400 and asked me to help them buy the recycling bins."

The Ocean Plus Saipan Dive Shop, an instructor development center, supports any kind of environmental project, she said.

It was this project that pushed Li to contact Brilliant Star.

"[They are] very involved in educating their students and the public about reducing ocean pollution and being responsible ocean environment stewards," Brilliant Star Montessori School principal Riched Sikkel noted. "With

the funds raised, [Li] bought recycling bins to help motivate students on Saipan."

Li used the \$400 to buy 10 steel recycling bins for donation.

"Since Brilliant Star School has had a recycling program for the last decade to teach our students the value of reduce, reuse, and recycle, they decided to donate the recycling bins to our school. We are very thankful for their generous donation and we are happy to know that there are other people with a similar mindset and we hope You Yang Zhao and Ocean Plus continue their efforts in creating a healthier environment for everyone," Sikkel added.



U.S. Marine Corps leadership led by Col. Brent Bien met yesterday morning with Sen. Tina Muñoz Barnes, the speaker of the 35th Guam Legislature, and Sen. Regine Biscoe Lee, chair of the Committee on Federal and Foreign Affairs, at the Guam Congress building.

FOR NEW, EXISTING CERTAIN PROJECTS

CUC OKs putting up funds for operations, maintenance

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Commonwealth Utilities Corp. has agreed with the U.S. government's recommendation for CUC to set up operations and maintenance programs, or O&M, to better ensure that the millions of funds CUC receives from the federal and CNMI governments for projects are spent properly in the future.

The U.S. government, on behalf of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, and CUC have agreed that CUC shall implement O&M activities according to industry standards.

That means CUC shall create, fund, and maintain a separate account to ensure the long-term operation and main-

tenance of new and existing oil infrastructure.

This will hopefully ensure that infrastructure outlined in court-ordered projects—Stipulated Order No. 2 and the Environmental and the Engineering Management Company order—will continue to operate safely and effectively.

SO2 refers to court-mandated projects that focus on oil issues and apply to oil spills and the remediation of the contaminated power plants.

Under the agreement, beginning on July 31, 2019, and every year after that, CUC shall infuse \$475,000 per year to the O&M account for 10 years.

Bradley R. O'Brien, senior lawyer of the U.S. Department of Justice Environmental Protection Section, and deputy

attorney general Lillian Ada Tenorio submitted the agreement before the U.S. District Court for the NMI last weekend on behalf of EPA and CUC.

O'Brien and Tenorio said that, at a minimum, the funding must be reserved to address large-scale O&M activities that occur on five-year or 10-year cycles, such as smart pigging and tank inspections.

O'Brien and Tenorio said CUC may augment the O&M account for additional activities but shall maintain the minimum funding level of \$475,000 per year.

Under the agreement, CUC shall report O&M account funding, activities, and expenditures to EPA every year.

EPA need not approve O&M account activities but the agency maintains the right

to object to any O&M activity.

The parties agreed that EPA and CUC shall evaluate the annual O&M account funding level and budget at least every year to look into any potential need for adjustments to address price increases or

additional O&M activities and costs.

The O&M account is a discrete account and shall remain separate from all other accounts and budgets, such as the power generation and distribution budgets.

Earlier, O'Brien told the court that a judicially enforceable mandate should be established requiring CUC to fund, schedule, and implement effective O&M programs for the federal court's two stipulated orders-funded projects.

Carter reserves \$275K for inspections of CUC oil pipeline

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

U.S. District Court for the NMI designated Judge David O. Carter granted Friday a joint request by the U.S. government and the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. to reserve \$275,000 for inspections of the CUC oil pipeline.

The \$275,000 shall come from CUC's Technical Manager for Oil fund and will be placed in a separate CUC account to be used for the in-line inspection of the pipeline.

In-line inspection, also called intelligent or "smart pigging," refers to an assessment of a pipeline from the interior of the pipe using an inspection tool.

The old pipeline was an

aboveground pipe that received fuel from the Mobil Oil facility at the port on Saipan and pumped it to Power Plants 1 and 2 in Lower Base.

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency had stated that, unless the old pipeline is repaired or replaced, it poses a threat to the nearby ocean.

An Environmental and Engineering Management Company then constructed a new fuel pipeline at the same location. It became operational in 2016.

In their joint stipulation,

U.S. Department of Justice Environmental Enforcement Section senior attorney Bradley O'Brien and CNMI deputy attorney general Lillian Tenorio said that a "smart pig" in-line inspection was conducted in 2018, to ensure that the new

SO2 refers to court-mandated projects that focus on oil issues and also apply to oil spills and the remediation of the contaminated power plants.

O'Brien and Tenorio said the EEMC and the parties agree that the pipeline should be regularly inspected in the future. The next scheduled inspection is in 2023.

CUC agrees to the 2023 in-line inspection "smart pig" analysis and that the results will be reviewed by a third party.

CUC agrees that the \$275,000 set aside for this inspection cannot be used for other purposes without the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's approval.

AK urges NMI students to turn in their 'dream car' artworks soon

works from Feb. 26, 2019, to March 9, 2019, and will have an awards ceremony for the Top 3 entries in each age category on Saturday, March 9, in the AK Toyota showroom.

The contest is open to students in the following age categories: Under 7 years; 8-11 years; and 12-15 years.

Students are encouraged to create their "Dream Car" using any standard drawing medium (color pencils, crayons, watercolors or markers) on an 11" x 17" paper with a thickness of 5mm maximum. Digital art mediums are restricted.

Toyota is looking for hand-drawn colorful artwork that il-

lustrates "My Dream Car."

Worldwide, there will be 30 finalists (10 finalists in three age categories) selected to participate in the global competition. If no one from Guam or Saipan is among the 30 finalists, a representative from both Guam and Saipan will be selected to attend the global competition. Announcements for the selected global finalists will be made in June. The artist and his or her parents will be invited to attend the awards ceremony in Tokyo, Japan in August 2019.

For more information, contact Ernie Galito at (671) 648-8400 or ernie.galito@AK-guam.com. (PR)



CUSTOMER APPRECIATION

Saipan Computer Services Inc president and owner Jerry P. Tiu picks out the coupon that has the name of the SCS Customer Appreciation Raffle Promo grand prize winner last Monday. Saipan Computer Services Inc. ended its 12th raffle promo by giving away many prizes that included smart appliances, gadgets, and accessories, with the top prize—a curved 65-inch television set—going to James Calderwood.

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

MLSC to host free probate workshops

The Marianas Office of Micronesian Legal Services Corp. will be hosting a series of probate workshops. These are intended as community legal education to help people in the CNMI understand the probate process. The first workshop on Rota will be Thursday, Feb. 7, 2019, at 11am at the Sinalao Youth Center and will focus on where to start for probate when a loved-one dies. The workshops are free. Call MLSC at 234-7729 for more information. (PR)

PTSA meeting for Kagman schools

This is to inform all parents, guardians, and the community that the Kagman cluster of schools will be having a Parents Teachers Students Association meeting on Tuesday, Feb. 12, 2019, at 5:30pm in the Kagman High School cafeteria. Call the schools at 237-3921, 664-4100, or 664-3911 if you have any questions or concerns. (PR)

Saipan chamber meeting today

The Saipan Chamber of Commerce will hold its February general membership meeting today, Feb. 6, at Kanoa Resort's Seaside Hall. Guest speakers include Commonwealth Utilities Corp. executive director Gary Camacho, who will provide updates and present short-term and long-term recovery plan, and lawyer George Hasselback, who will share his expertise on H2B visa application approvals and denials as well as its impact on the CNMI's contractor landscape. Lunch will

be available 11:30am and the meeting will begin promptly at 12pm, led by Chamber president Velma M. Palacios. Cost is \$25 for members/\$35 for non-members. The chamber will also welcome two new members: MJ Visions Inc., which does business as TopNotch and Phoenix Services Inc. (PR)

USDA RD rep on island tomorrow

The U.S. Department of Agriculture Rural Development representative will be on island tomorrow, Feb. 7, 2019, from 10am to 4:30pm to assist Rural Development clients. If you may have any inquiries regarding the program, stop by the Northern Marianas Housing Corp. office in Garapan. (PR)

Military trainings set

ASAN, Guam—The U.S. Air Force and Navy will conduct training at the island of Farallon de Medinilla during the following dates and times:

■ Feb. 6, from 12-6pm
■ Feb. 9-10, from 5-9pm

It is recommended the public, fishermen and marine tour operators monitor the Coast Guard broadcast notice to mariners for advisories.

The general location of the training on the island of Farallon de Medinilla will be in a 12-nautical mile radius of the island. (PR)

Emergency power interruptions

The Commonwealth Utilities Corp. would like to inform the public that there will be scheduled power interruptions on the following dates, times and locations:

Feb. 6, 2019, from 8am to 1pm

■ Outage type: Sectionalized lateral outage on the Feeder 7 distribution circuit

■ Village location: Marpi
■ Area(s) affected: Ayuyu Drive, Marpi

■ Water well(s) affected: None

■ Water Interruption: None
■ Wastewater lift station(s) affected: None

■ Pole Replacement(s): Two

Feb. 7, 2019, from 2pm to 6pm

■ Outage type: Sectionalized feeder outage on the Feeder 7 distribution circuit

■ Village location: As Matuus

■ Area(s) affected: Entire San Roque and As Matuus

■ Water well(s) affected: Marpi Quarry Wells

■ Water Interruption: Entire As Matuus, San Roque, Tanapag, and Puerto Rico

■ Wastewater lift station(s) affected: SR-1, SR-2 and SR-3

■ Pole Replacement(s): Three

The purpose of the emergency power interruptions is to de-energize utility lines and allow power line workers from the CUC contracting company, Primary Source Electric, to safely replace five wooden poles with concrete poles in Marpi and As Matuus villages. The emergency power interruption is part of CUC's resiliency program aimed at hardening and strengthening the CUC power distribution system that was affected by Super Typhoon Yutu.

Because of the scale of work that will be performed, CUC asks travelers to take alternate routes or to exercise caution when driving through the working area. (PR)

BEA CABRERA

Opinion

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AP The Associated Press

Pacific Islands News Association

EDITORIAL

Be cautious in Afghanistan peace talks with the Taliban

Good news finally has been trickling back from Afghanistan: U.S. and Taliban negotiators may be close to a peace pact in America's longest war. A resolution is long overdue. America invaded in 2001 in response to the 9/11 terror attacks. Afghanistan's Taliban regime had harbored al-Qaida, and the country served as a base for terrorists responsible for the deaths of thousands. The Taliban were routed, and by 2003, then-Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld declared an end to "major combat."

That was almost 16 years ago.

Those years have proven true the warning that Afghanistan always has been a humbler of empires. The Taliban regrouped and fighting continued. Cities were struck with suicide bombings. NATO troops returned to fight in provinces they'd left in triumph. Americans and Afghans alike continue to die.

The U.S. intelligence community's annual threat assessment released last week found a bitter stalemate in the country, with trouble ahead for planned elections. That assessment also indicated that Afghanistan is a crucial crossroads, with larger geopolitical significance given Russia's efforts to play a role in the Afghanistan peace process.

There are no easy answers for Afghanistan. On a shifting battlefield, the Taliban that once sheltered terrorists more recently has clashed with the Islamic State, an enemy the United States has contested elsewhere.

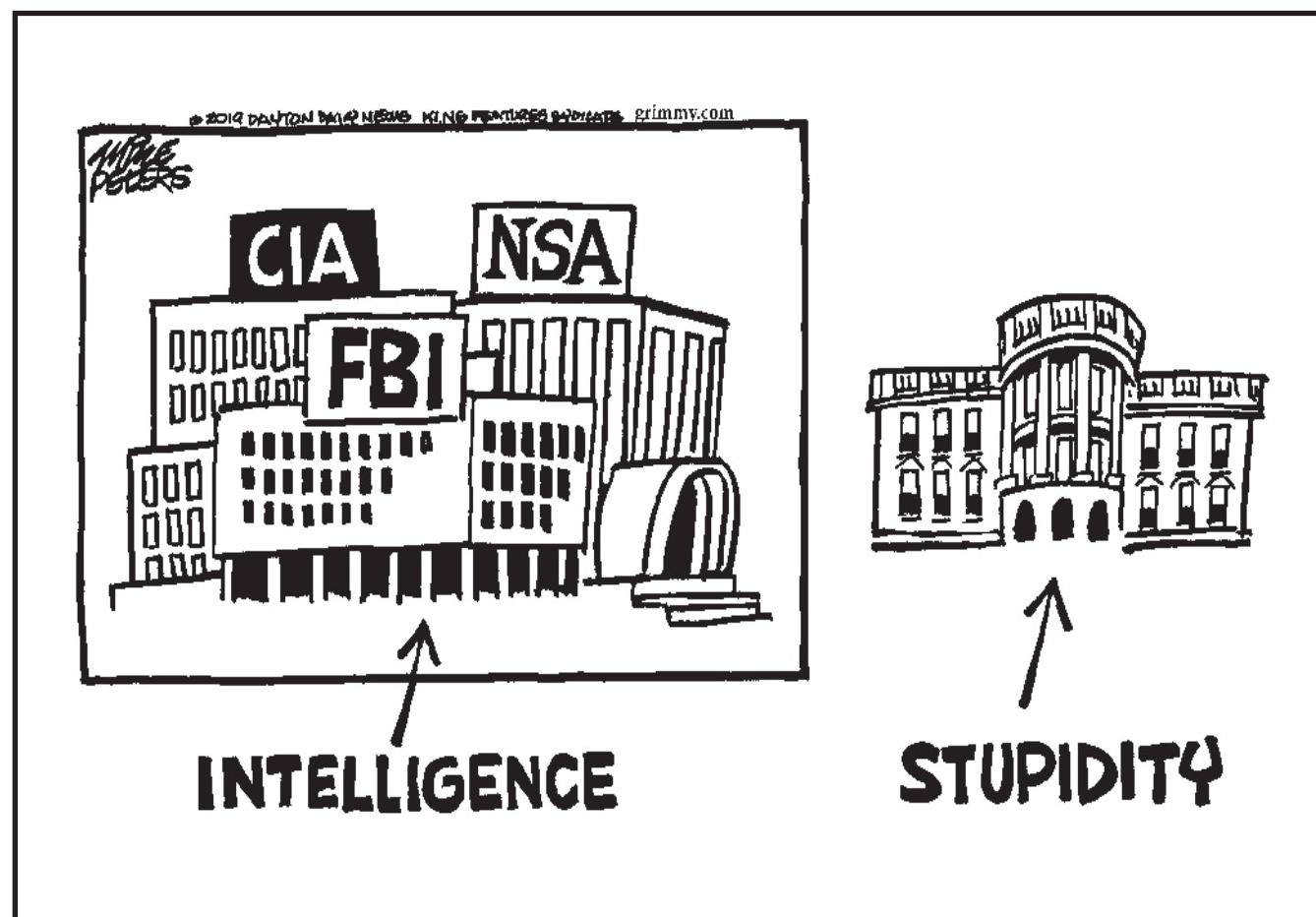
Yet there is a legitimate concern that terror groups could fester again in the country without an American presence. In drafts of a cautious peace pact, the Taliban are said to promise this won't be the case. Enforcement mechanisms on that promise will be key to any deal.

And the deeply patriarchal Taliban regime was a nightmare for Afghan women. The partial liberation of those women has been one of the successes of U.S. and allies' intervention. Women cast ballots in large numbers celebrated by activists and election watchers around the world. The country now even has a national women's soccer team, albeit one with officials accused of sexual abuse. Such tenuous advances show the real challenges ahead with or without American support.

Political consensus on the war and our role in Afghanistan remains complicated. In a bipartisan vote, the Senate rebuked President Donald Trump's effort to withdraw troops from Afghanistan and Syria. Meanwhile, some Democratic presidential candidates found themselves on Trump's side in favor of bringing troops home. That's just the recent state of debate. While caution is warranted, two presidents have now campaigned for and won office on promises to wind down wars that have stretched on for far too long.

Peace and stability must be negotiated, sooner rather than later. The effects of the war reverberate there and here: from the Afghan children maimed and killed by suicide attacks or U.S. and NATO airstrikes, to the families and communities still mourning lost servicemen and women on Long Island and beyond. America cannot remain deeply involved in this country forever.

(C)2019 NEWSDAY



Virginia governor fiasco puts Dems' troubled racial history on display

The Democratic Party has a mixed legacy on race, to put it charitably. But the lines may never have been set up more favorably for it than today.

That's one reason the controversy over racism in Virginia Gov. Ralph Northam's past is so important, and why his quick departure is so important.

Divisions have not always been as they are today.

In the post-Civil War era, Democrats passed laws to block Republican moves supporting the South's newly emancipated black population. Democratic President Woodrow Wilson resegregated the federal government. Southern Democrats led efforts against federal civil rights legislation into the mid-20th century.

And even Franklin D. Roosevelt, the greatest Democratic president of the last century, made only minimal moves toward recognizing black Americans' rights, concerned about maintaining his support among Southern lawmakers who provided strong support for his international policies in an era of isolationism.

But on a hot July 1948 night in Philadelphia, Minneapolis Mayor Hubert Humphrey signaled a change that transformed American politics, urging delegates at the Democratic National Convention to "get out of the shadow of states' rights and walk forthrightly into the bright sunshine of human rights."

Since then, the Democratic Party has led efforts outlawing legalized discrimination. The 1954 Supreme Court decision barring school segregation helped mold public opinion, but it galvanized Southern opponents. Republicans, identified from their founding with expanding rights, joined wholeheartedly in passing landmark civil rights measures that climaxed with the 1965 Voting Rights Act, enacted by overwhelming margins over mainly Southern Democratic opposition.

But some Republicans led by 1964 GOP nominee Barry Goldwater wooed white Southerners turned off by the Democrats' stance, prompting President Lyndon Johnson to presciently foresee a political backlash though congressional support for voting rights remained bipartisan. As recently as 2006, Congress extended the law's main provisions by near-unanimous votes, despite growing GOP questions about its scope, which surfaced that year in cautionary comments from Senate Republicans.

After Barack Obama won the presidency in 2008, buoyed by a rising tide of African-American and younger voters, GOP-controlled states began passing new restrictions on voting, such as strict voter ID requirements. In 2013, the Supreme Court, led by a chief justice, John Roberts, who long harbored doubts about the Voting Rights Act, echoed that 2006 Senate GOP report by

By CARL P. LEUBSDORF

The Dallas Morning News

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declaring unconstitutional the key portion requiring states with a history of discrimination to pre-clear voting law changes with the Justice Department.

The court's avowed goal of updating that provision was not unreasonable. But the practical impact of its decision was to kill it, because congressional Republicans showed no interest in fixing the law.

Since then, a wide gap has developed between Democrats seeking to maintain and further the ability of all Americans to enjoy equal voting rights and some Republicans driven by concerns over questionable voter fraud. Republicans in Southern states enacted a variety of restrictive measures, which critics say are aimed at curbing the votes of minorities.

More recently, that gap was illustrated by President Donald Trump's slowness to condemn white supremacists and the contrast between Obama's energetic Justice Department enforcement of voting rights and the exact opposite stance by Trump's Justice Department, starting with its early decision to stop supporting a challenge to the Texas voter ID law.

The gap was exemplified in recent weeks when the new House Democratic majority introduced a measure that, among other things, would revise and update the Voting Rights Act and encourage voting by easing registration and making Election Day a federal holiday. On the day the House Judiciary Committee opened hearings, the top congressional Republican, Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell, denounced the Democratic proposals as a partisan "power grab."

It is against this backdrop that the totally unexpected controversy erupted over the disclosure of racist imagery on Virginia Gov. Ralph Northam's medical college yearbook page and the virtually unanimous Democratic denunciation of the governor's tone-deaf response, which included volunteering that he put shoe polish on his face in a 1984 depiction of singer Michael Jackson.

At a time the nation's non-white voting population continues growing, the Democrats see both a moral and a practical aspect

See VIRGINIA on Next Page

EDITORIAL POLICY

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Suetdu: Asuntun familia

Mayoria gi empleau guine gumagana suetdun popble, segun i ripot gasetta. Kase guaha 15-mit mangaige guine na estau.

Taya` gai isau este na sapet gi familia. Doku` dese 40 añaus antes. Lau gaige gi menan miyu gi hilu` esperansa na `in espihaye satbasion.

Komprendiyun na seriosu na asuntu para todum familia ni manginacha` guine na sapet. Mauleg `in tutuhun umina puede guaha kampu para suanu na satbasion todum.

Mamirese ni 15-mit na empleau ayudu, pa`gu! I asuntun pot kualidat linala` familia ni taimanu na atlibes-mu.

Marepite: Mina` ha estotba-yu` i lumailai na asuntu pot hu padese sapet na hinanau antes `nai sumen popble i tanu`.

Dibera tatihu chage na sapet gi katsadan miserapble na pineple. Deste hanum grifu para amotsan oga`an antes de eskuela esta otru siha chinatsaga gi halum ridondun miserapble na pineple.

Tinilaika: I lumuñu` kualidat na linala` familia guihe na tiempu i baban ekonomia gi tinilaikan Navy esta Interior. Adahna rinibaha gi suetdu dese \$75 esta \$16 gi ora. Estegue` umafuetsas manadana familia bumira siha tatte gi hagas modun linala` natibu entalu` gualu yan tasi.

In usune parehu dos gualu` entalu` Tagpochau yan As Perido. Tai malefaghui ni manlodu` tañgantañgan iya Tagpochau pot mas ke 30 añaus ti man-mapacha. Lanchun As Perido `nai gaige lamegai na tinanum mame yan pindegsai ni diariu `in asistis.

Makat lau todum i tiempu gaige konsuelun mame gi bendision i Saina ni numu`e ham himimiddi yan minesñgun! Felis todum hinanau mame! Mit grasiyas!

Minesñgun: Hu tuñgu` ginen matan nanahu na mampus inestraña un` pueñege pot ni pugas ham taya`. `In siñgun humale` sune gi tatten guma` ya in` saibog para senan mame. Solu totche

i asiga ni matigise doni` sali.

Ti likidu este na pinadese gi bisinu sa` todum man-inafepta padre de familia gi taya` cho`chu`. Todum lokue` umusune i gualu yan tasi gi maprebeniyen mantension familia. Dios mihu na animu deste ke manana si Yuus esta i oran desansu.

Suñgun: Nai siete gradu-yu` hu chage macho`chu` gi Saipan Stevedore tres pueñege sigidu para neñkanu` gi lamasan sena. Makat lau hu suñgun pot ayu ha` `nai siña disiente na prebin-sion familia.

Apmam na tiempu `nai mamokat-yu` gi katsadan tinahuñ monedan familia. Estague` na hu komprende haf i memegainági tautau-ta mapadedese fuetsau ginen este na sapet. Guaha monhon satbasion?

Gi mismu tiempu dañkulu na chanda gi man-ma`gas lau pa`gu i tiempu `nai siña ta ina este na asuntu puede tasoda` satbasioñá.

I asuntu ha necesaria sanu na planun ekonomia. Komplikau na asuntu lau ni uno soplu ginen este na obligasion. Guaha monhon kampu para `in hisga, gi hilu` dinaña`, haf i dichu asuntu yan satbasion?

Sin Guma`: Ha estotbayu` gasetan tautau-ta siha ni mamaigu` gi “public parks” pot mantai guma` entalu` este yan Guahan. Dañkulu na piligrui gi ha` anen niha yan chatpagu para hita ni mañgilisyanu!

Kuestion: haf fumañagu este na chinatsaga? Kau ni cho`chu` siha i los probes na ti siña ma-apase fanliheñ niha?

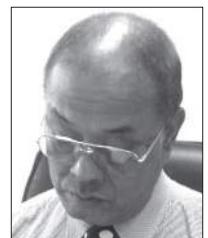
Komprendiyun i guaha magahet ti munu` siña pot mantai officiu apmam na tiempu. Lau na ti este `nai humalum ahensian gobietnu pot ayudu gi mantai che`chu` para satbasion niha gi hilu` dignu na manera?

Kase iya hululu` pot mantai che`chu` (officiu) i los probes. Makat `an guaha `nos kuantos membro familia man-dinisplanta

By JOHN S. DELROSARIO JR.

Special to the Saipan Tribune

John DelRosario Jr. is a former publisher of the Saipan Tribune and a former secretary of the Department of Public Lands. All views expressed by the author are his/her own and do not necessarily reflect the opinion and stance of the Saipan Tribune.



fuetsau pot este na chinatsaga. Madisgranan familia!

Un` sapet ni kumone`yu` guatu gi 15-mit na tautau-ta ni gumagana suetdun popble (poverty income). Kuantu mangai gima` fitme para `an mattu mattiempu? `Sino kuantu mangaige gi kelat para u fan ma-amut ni gima` niha piot ayu i man-ayau gi bañku?

Silensiú: Mauleg na tiempu este ke inipus silensiú i tanu`. Ni hoi ni goi i hegsu` I Deni`. Kau guaha satbasion sineda` niha ni mananañga para uma-anusia. Mauleg ta ketuñgu` kau este na grasia mamamaila`.

Lau atan sa` guaha 15-mit na tautau-ta pumadedese baratin suetdu ayu kase na inipus man-silensiú. `An diariu un` atan nesesidat familia ni enseñadas pininu` satbasion pot ti nahuñ fondu gi moneda pures komprendiyun na man-mamatkilu i Boysis.

Makat na kontrariu `hai ni satbasion appenas kinalamten ginan i hegsu` I Deni. Huñgan dañkulu na probleman familia ni taimanu na atlibesmu. Fuetsau estau pineple pot magagana suetdun popble, dopble problema ni ti inaligau niha. Satbasion?

I propiu ineppe gai kinumplikau lau gaige gi dos patman kanai man-ma-elihe pot ligat na obligasion satbasion. Ta pasensiaye sa` gai minakat i asuntu.

Facebook bums us out but we'll pay for it anyway

Would you be better off without Facebook? Would society benefit, too?

A team of economists, led by Hunt Allcott of New York University, has just produced the most impressive research to date on these questions.

In general, the researchers' findings are not good news for Facebook and its users. Getting off the platform appears to increase people's well-being—and significantly decrease political polarization.

Allcott and his co-authors began by asking 2,884 Facebook users, in November 2018, how much money they would demand to deactivate their accounts for a period of four weeks, ending just after the midterm election.

To make their experiment manageable, the researchers focused on about 60 percent of users, who said that they would be willing to deactivate their accounts for under \$102.

The researchers divided those users into two groups. The Treatment group was paid to deactivate. The Control group was not. Members of both groups were asked a battery of questions, exploring how getting off Facebook affected their lives.

The most striking finding is that even in that short period, those who deactivated their accounts seemed to enjoy their lives more as a result. In response to survey questions, they showed decreases in depression and anxiety. They also showed improvements in both happiness and life satisfaction.

Why is that? The researchers don't have an answer to that question, but they do show that deactivating Facebook gave people a nice gift: about 60 minutes per day on average. Those who got off the platform spent that time with friends and family, and also watching television alone. Interestingly, they did not spend more time online (which means that contrary to what you might expect, they did not replace Facebook with other social media platforms, such as Instagram).

Getting off Facebook also led people to pay less attention to politics. Those in the Treatment group were less likely to give the right answers to questions about recent news events. They

were also less likely to say that they followed political news.

Perhaps as a result, deactivating Facebook led to a major decrease in political polarization. On political questions, Democrats and Republicans in the Treatment group disagreed less sharply than did those in the Control group. (This is not because the groups were different; members of both groups, selected randomly, were equally willing to give up use of Facebook for the right amount of money.) It is reasonable to speculate that while people learn about politics on their Facebook page, what they see is skewed in the direction they prefer—which leads to greater polarization.

At this point, you might be thinking that these findings are absolutely terrible for Facebook. Indeed, those in the Treatment group reported that they were planning to use the platform less in the future—and after the experiment ended, they were doing exactly that.

But here's the rub. After one month without Facebook, the median amount that users would demand to deactivate their account for another month was still pretty high: \$87. The U.S. has 172 million Facebook users. Assuming that the median user demands \$87 to give up use of the platform for a month, a little multiplication suggests that the platform is providing Americans with benefits: If each user gets the equivalent of \$87 in benefits per month, the total amount is in the hundreds of billions of annually.

With that finding in mind, Allcott and his co-authors offer a strong conclusion, one that should provide a lot of comfort to Facebook's executives. The researchers insist that on balance, Facebook produces “enormous flows of consumer surplus,” in the form of those hundreds of billions of dollars in benefits, for which users pay nothing at all (at least not in monetary terms).

Maybe that's right—but maybe not.

Recall that those who deactivated their accounts reported that they were better off along multiple dimensions—happier, more satisfied with their lives, less anxious, less depressed. So here's a real paradox: Facebook users are willing to give up a significant

create problems with the back voters who have become one of the party's largest and most influential factions.

That is especially true in Virginia where voters next November will fill all 140 seats in the Senate and the House of Delegates. The GOP currently holds narrow two-vote margins, and a large minority voter turnout is crucial to Democratic hopes.

By CASS R. SUNSTEIN

Bloomberg News

Cass R. Sunstein is a Bloomberg Opinion columnist. He is the author of The Cost-Benefit Revolution and a co-author of Nudge: Improving Decisions About Health, Wealth and Happiness.



sum of money, each month, to make themselves more miserable.

To resolve the paradox, consider two possibilities.

The first is that the important measure—the gold standard—is people's actual experience. When people say that they would demand \$87 to give up use of Facebook for a month, they are making a big mistake. The monetary figure might reflect a simple habit (maybe people are just used to having Facebook in their lives), or a prevailing social norm, or even a kind of addiction.

The second possibility is that survey answers about personal well-being—including anxiety and depression—fail to capture everything that people really care about.

For example, Allcott and his co-authors show that Facebook users know more about politics. Those who follow politics might become more anxious and depressed—but a lot of people still follow politics to get happy. They follow politics because they are curious, and because they think that's what good citizens do.

Similarly, Facebook users might want to know what their friends are doing and thinking, because that's good to know, whether or not that knowledge makes them happier.

Both of these possibilities undoubtedly capture part of the picture. But let's not lose sight of the most striking implication of the new research: Voluntary use of Facebook (and probably Twitter as well) is making a lot of people stressed and sad. For many of us, deactivating might well turn out to be a gift that keeps on giving.

Some GOP critics see the degree to which Democrats have championed minority rights in recent years as a crassly political response. While they are right that Democrats see political advantages in their position, it has the added value of being right. That juxtaposition has not always been the way American politicians have approached the issue of civil rights.

VIRGINIA

From Page 10

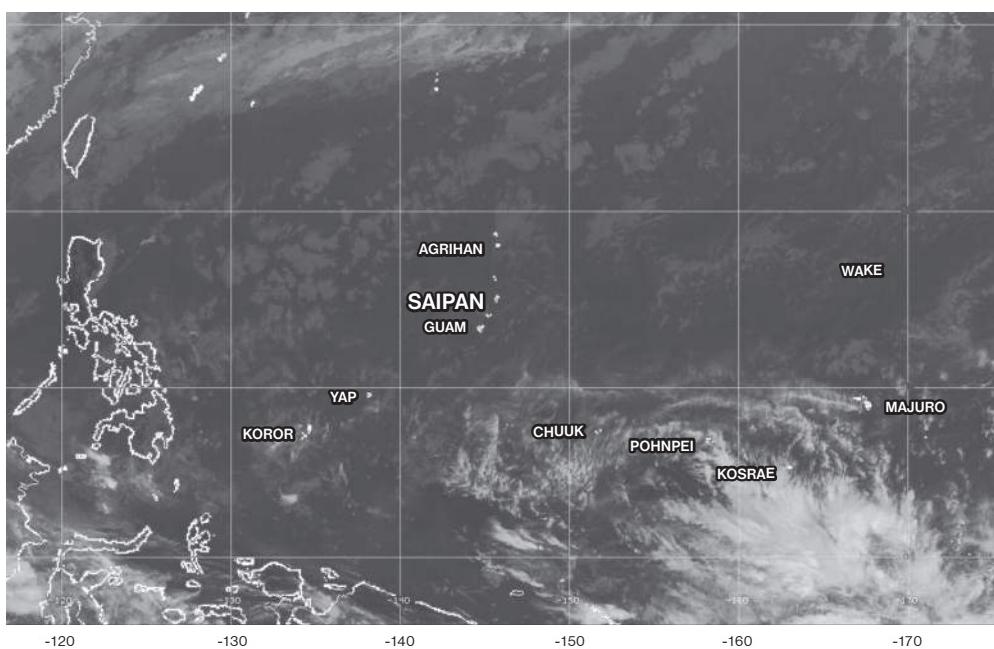
to maintaining their fervent pro-civil rights positions and condemning deviations. Aside from being wrong, the latter would

The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN

TODAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
Partly cloudy with isolated light showers. East winds 10 to 20 mph.	Partly cloudy and breezy with isolated light showers. Northeast winds 15 to 25 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated light showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated light showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated light showers.
88°	77°	87°	77°	87°
87°	77°	88°	77°	87°

YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE



PICTURE TIME: 7:02 AM, TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 5, 2019

Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Winds continue to be breezy or only just below. This is causing the seas to be hovering right around low-end small craft advisory values. Clouds and winds have diminished to near normal values for dry season and look likely to stay near these values through the foreseeable future. The shear line just after the forecast period looks like it is not as impressive in the latest runs. Looks like little change is on tap through at least the weekend.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

MICRONESIA		▲	▼	°F
Guam and Rota	Showers	84°	/	76°
Palau	Partly Cloudy	84°	/	77°
Yap	Partly Cloudy	85°	/	79°
Chuuk	Showers	84°	/	79°
Pohnpei	Cloudy	86°	/	79°
Kosrae	Cloudy	86°	/	79°
Majuro	Cloudy	85°	/	79°

AROUND THE GLOBE		▲	▼	°F
Auckland	Windy	72°	/	64°
Beijing	Partly Cloudy	28°	/	18°
Hong Kong	Partly Cloudy	73°	/	68°
Honolulu	Showers	78°	/	68°
London	Rain	52°	/	43°
Los Angeles	Partly Cloudy	58°	/	40°
Manila	Sunny	90°	/	72°
Melbourne	Showers	88°	/	64°
Miami	Thunderstorms	75°	/	70°
New York	Showers	44°	/	37°
Osaka	Cloudy	55°	/	41°
Paris	Cloudy	52°	/	46°
Busan	Cloudy	50°	/	30°
Rome	Sunny	61°	/	37°
Salem	Partly Cloudy	60°	/	39°
San Francisco	Partly Cloudy	52°	/	42°
Seoul	Partly Cloudy	34°	/	14°
Tokyo	Partly Cloudy	59°	/	39°
Washington, DC	Showers	49°	/	45°



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- *11 on any IT&E cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.net

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JANUARY 21, 2019

DEPARTURES				ARRIVALS			
SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)				GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN			
UA117	9:15am	9:55am	Daily	UA174	7:30am	8:11am	Daily
UA105	6:25pm	7:05pm	2, 4	UA104	4:50pm	5:31pm	2, 4
SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)				BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN			
7C3451	3:15am	6:30am	Daily	7C3452	9:35pm	2:00am+1	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
				7C3452	10:05pm	2:00am+1	1
SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)				SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN			
OZ626	2:10am	6:00am	1	7C3402	10:10am	3:30pm	Daily
OZ626	2:50am	6:40am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7	OZ625	7:40pm	1:00am+1	7
				OZ625	8:20pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
7C3403	4:35am	8:25am	Daily	7C3404	10:10pm	3:40am+1	Daily
7C3401	4:30pm	8:25pm	Daily				
SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)				SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN			
3U8648	6:10am	8:50am	1, 4, 5, 7	3U8647	10:20pm	4:50am+1	3, 4, 6, 7
SAIPAN-HANGZHOU (GHG)				HANGZHOU (GHG)-SAIPAN			
JD396	7:30am	11:00am	1	JD395	8:05am	3:30pm	4
JD396	4:50pm	7:55pm	4	JD395	9:35pm	5:00am+1	7
SAIPAN-GUANGZHOU (CAN)				GUANGZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN			
3U8646	4:30am	7:55am	2, 6	3U8645	7:55pm	2:40am+1	1, 5
SAIPAN-BEIJING (PEK)				BEIJING (PEK)-SAIPAN			
MU764	1:30am	6:35am	3, 5, 7	MU763	4:40pm	12:30am+1	2, 4, 6
SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)				MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN			
UA117/183	9:15am	9:40pm	2, 5 via GUM	UA182/174	12:40am	8:11am+1	3, 6 via GUM
UA117/183	9:15am	9:50pm	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM	PR110/UA174	10:05pm	8:11am+1	Daily via GUM
UA117/193	9:15am	11:50pm	2, 5 via GUM-ROR	UA192/174	10:30pm	8:11am+1	2, 5 via GUM-ROR
UA105/183	4:45pm	9:40pm	2 via GUM	UA184/174	10:55pm	8:11am+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
UA105/183	4:45pm	9:50pm	4 via GUM				
SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)				HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN			
HX077	1:50am	5:15am	1, 4	OZ722/625	1:15pm	1:00am+1	7 via ICN
OZ626/721	2:10am	11:50am	1 via ICN	OZ722/625	1:15pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
OZ626/721	2:50am	11:50am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN	HX076	5:15pm	12:15am+1	3, 7
				UO43	5:45am	8:40am	1, 3, 5, 7
				UA117/159	9:15am	11:00pm	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via GUM
				UA105/159	4:45pm	11:00pm	2, 4 via GUM
STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.							
SAIPAN TO ROTA				1203	9:00AM	9:15AM	Daily
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY	1204	10:00AM	10:15AM	Daily
1301	7:30AM	8:00AM	Daily	1205	11:00AM	11:15AM	Daily
1302	11:30AM	12:00PM	Daily	1206	12:00PM	12:15PM	Daily
1303	4:00PM	4:30PM	Daily	1207	1:00PM	1:15PM	Daily
				1208	2:00PM	2:15PM	Daily
				1209	3:00PM	3:15PM	Daily
				1210	4:00PM	4:15PM	Daily
				1211	5		

Business

Trump has solid US economy for SOTU, but threats remain

WASHINGTON (AP)—President Donald Trump will enjoy the backdrop of a mostly solid economy as he delivers his second State of the Union address Tuesday night, though questions about its sustainability linger.

Trump will likely tout the latest signs of strength: Friday's jobs report showed that employers added the most jobs in January in nearly a year. The proportion of Americans working or looking for work reached a roughly five-year high. And a separate report showed that factory output rose at a healthy clip in December.

Those figures, however, haven't fully erased concerns about an array of headwinds facing the U.S. economy this year.

Several challenges loom: Overseas growth is stumbling, led by weakness in China, the world's second-largest economy. Europe is hamstrung by a recession in Italy and the potential for an unruly Brexit. A trade war between the U.S. and China and higher U.S. mortgage rates, partly engineered by the Federal Reserve, remain threats. The impact of the administration's tax cut may fade. And a 35-day partial government shutdown will likely trim official measures of growth for the first quar-



In this Sunday, Feb. 3, 2019 file photo, President Donald Trump speaks to reporters onboard Air Force One, on his way back to the White House in Washington from a weekend at his Mar-a-Lago estate in Palm Beach, Fla. AP

ter, economists say.

U.S. businesses are defying those headwinds, for now. Many analysts attribute the economy's current health to Trump's tax cuts in late 2017 and a jump in government spending last year, as part of a budget deal between the administration and Congress.

Economic growth reached

"No other major economy in the world did what we did," said Ethan Harris, global economist at Bank of America Merrill Lynch. "The stimulus did a very good job of covering up all the blemishes of the economy, including the risks of the trade war."

3.8 percent last spring and summer, the fastest six-month pace in four years. It also accelerated job gains at a time when many economists expected hiring to slow. With the unemployment rate already low, analysts figured that companies would have fewer unemployed people to hire.

Yet employers stepped up their hiring and drove the unemployment rate down to 3.7 percent in November, the lowest in five decades. It has since ticked up to 4 percent, partly because of government workers who were temporarily unemployed because of the shutdown.

Judge approves massive Puerto Rico debt restructuring deal

SAN JUAN, Puerto Rico (AP)—A federal bankruptcy judge approved a major debt restructuring plan for Puerto Rico on Monday in the first deal of its kind for the U.S. territory since the island's government declared nearly four years ago that it was unable to repay its public debt.

The agreement involves more than \$17 billion worth of government bonds backed by a sales-and-use tax, with officials saying it will help the government save an average of \$456 million a year in debt service. The deal allows Puerto Rico to cut its sales-tax-backed debt by 32 percent but requires the government to pay \$32 billion in the next 40 years as part of the restructuring.

Senior bondholders, who hold nearly \$8 billion, will be first to collect, receiving 93 percent of the value of the original bonds. Junior bondholders, many of whom are individual Puerto Rican investors and overall hold nearly \$10 billion, will collect last and recover only 54 percent.

"Puerto Rico has taken an

important step toward its total financial recovery," Gov. Ricardo Rossello said in a statement. "This represents more than \$400 million annually that will be available for services in critical areas such as health, education, pension payments, and public safety, in compliance with other obligations."

The deal was previously approved by bondholders but prompted hundreds of people to write and email Judge Laura Taylor-Swain, who held a hearing on the issue nearly three weeks ago, to express concerns about the government's ability to make those payments and the effect it will have on public services. In her ruling, she wrote that she reviewed and carefully considered all those messages before making a decision.

"Many of the formal and informal objections raised serious and considered concerns about the Commonwealth's future ability to provide properly for the citizens of Puerto Rico who depend upon it," she wrote. "They are not, however, concerns upon which the Court can properly act

in making its decision ... the Court is not free to impose its own view of what the optimal resolution of the dispute could have been."

The judge said that the deal represents a reasonable compromise and that further litigation would present a "significant gamble" for Puerto Rico. The island is mired in a 12-year-old recession and struggling to recover from Hurricane Maria as the government tries to restructure a portion of its more than \$70 billion public debt load.

A U.S. government report issued last year said Puerto Rico's public finance problems are partly a result of government officials who overestimated revenue, overspent, did not fully address public pension funding shortfalls and borrowed money to balance budgets. The Government Accountability Office also reviewed 20 of Puerto Rico's largest bond issuances over nearly two decades and found that 16 were issued solely to repay or refinance debt and fund operations, something many states prohibit.

ELIZABETH, N.J. (AP)—New Jersey became the latest state on Monday to boost its hourly minimum wage to \$15 after Democratic Gov. Phil Murphy signed into law a measure phasing in the higher rate over five years.

Murphy signed the bill alongside Lt. Gov. Sheila Oliver and Democratic legislative leaders at a raucous event in Elizabeth where advocates cheered, "Ready for 15," carried banners with their union affiliation and applauded loudly once the bill was signed.

"It is a great day to make some history for New Jersey's working families," Murphy said. "And that's just what we're going to do. We've talked long enough about putting New Jersey on a responsible path to \$15 an hour minimum wage. Today we start our way on this path."

New Jersey joins California, Massachusetts, New York and the District of Columbia in phasing in the higher rate. The \$15 wage is a prominent policy goal of left-leaning groups, as well as the fulfillment of a key campaign prom-

ise by Murphy.

The governor, Senate President Steve Sweeney and Assembly Speaker Craig Coughlin announced a deal on the higher wage last month following yearlong efforts by left-leaning groups and unions in the state to raise the wage.

Republican Gov. Chris Christie vetoed a similar bill in 2016 to raise the wage.

Republicans and many businesses testified during hearings that the higher wage will increase costs and hurt commerce. On Monday, Republican senators raised concerns that it would lead to businesses laying off workers and moving to automation.

Others worried that if a recession hits, the high wage could be untenable for businesses.

"The amount of job loss that we are going to see among small businesses will be tragic," state Sen. Declan O'Scanlon said in a statement.

In an interview, Murphy, the former Obama administration ambassador to Germany, dismissed concerns over auto-

White House officials say the good times will continue. Kevin Hassett, a top administration economist, forecasts that growth will clock in at 3 percent a year for the next decade. He predicts that the administration's corporate tax cuts will entice businesses to invest more in machinery, software and buildings, which will make workers more productive and generate longer-term growth.

So far there is little evidence that that is happening, economists say. After a burst of investment in the first half of last year, companies have since pulled back on spending. Some economists attribute their caution to the administration's trade war with China.

"They're willing to add more people — that's good," said Diane Swonk, chief economist at Grant Thornton, referring to U.S. businesses. But "right now they're not willing to pull the trigger and bet on building more capacity. That undermines your foundation for future growth."

Most economists expect the impact of the tax cuts and extra government spending to fade as the year progresses and for the rate hikes the Fed has already imposed to hold back growth somewhat. Inevitably, too, a prolonged global slump would weaken the U.S. economy as well.

New Jersey becomes 4th state to approve \$15 hourly wage

mination and said he hasn't seen evidence a higher minimum wage correlates to jobs lost because of artificial intelligence or automation.

He also acknowledged that raising the minimum wage too high too fast could hurt the state's economy, which is why the measure phases it in, he said.

"I start from the basis that you've got full-time work earning poverty wages in 2019 in New Jersey," he said. "There's no excuse that could justify this."

The bill raises the current \$8.85 minimum wage to \$10 an hour in July, and then increases the rate by \$1 in subsequent years until it reaches \$15 in 2024—but not for all workers.

Farm workers' wages will climb to \$12.50 over five years, for example. Workers for small businesses and seasonal employees will see their minimum wage reach \$15 an hour only in 2026. Tipped workers, who currently have a minimum hourly wage of \$2.13, will see it climb to \$5.13 an hour by 2024.

Nation

US prepares to start building portion of Texas border wall

HOUSTON (AP)—The U.S. government is preparing to begin construction of more border walls and fencing in South Texas' Rio Grande Valley, likely on federally owned land set aside as wildlife refuge property.

Heavy construction equipment was expected to arrive starting Monday, U.S. Customs and Border Protection said. A photo posted by the nonprofit National Butterfly Center shows an excavator parked next to its property.

Congress last March approved more than \$600 million for 33 miles (53 kilometers) of new barriers in the Rio Grande Valley. While President Donald Trump and top Democrats remain in a stand-off over Trump's demand for \$5.7 billion in border wall funding, U.S. Customs and Border Protection has pushed ahead with building what's already funded.

That construction was often described as fencing, and the government funding bill that included construction was supported by some Democrats in the House and Senate. CBP refers to what it plans to build as a "border wall system."

According to designs it released in September, CBP intends to build 25 miles (40 kilometers) of concrete walls to the height of the existing flood-control levee in Hidalgo County next to the Rio Grande, the river that forms the U.S.-Mexico border in



In this Aug. 11, 2017, file photo, a U.S. Customs and Border Patrol vehicle passes along a section of border levee wall in Hidalgo, Texas. AP

Texas. On top of the concrete walls, CBP will install 18-foot (5.5-meter) steel posts and clear a 150-foot (45-meter) enforcement zone in front.

Maps released by CBP show construction would cut through the butterfly center, a nearby state park, and a century-old Catholic chapel next to the river.

Many landowners oppose a border wall and have vowed to fight the U.S. government if it tries to seize their property through eminent domain. Court fights over condemning land could take weeks if not months.

CBP said in its statement that it intends to start construction on federally owned land. Environmental advocates ex-

pect the government to use land that's part of the Lower Rio Grande Valley National Wildlife Refuge.

The refuge consists of dozens of parcels of land purchased over the last 40 years to create a corridor for endangered species and other wildlife.

The Department of Homeland Security can waive environmental restrictions to construct a border wall and issued its waiver for Hidalgo County in October. A coalition of environmental groups has sued DHS over its use of waivers, arguing that wall construction would endanger ocelots, rare birds and other wildlife that rely on refuge land for habitat. That lawsuit

is still pending.

Congress last March required CBP not to build in the Santa Ana National Wildlife Refuge after a public outcry. But it didn't exempt the Lower Rio Grande Valley refuge.

"Santa Ana was not a big enough refuge to sustain all the wildlife down here," said Jim Chapman, a longtime resident of the Rio Grande Valley and member of the group Friends of the Wildlife Corridor.

The National Butterfly Center released the text of an email sent by an attorney from the U.S. Department of Justice. The lawyer, Cliff Stevens, says in the email that construction will begin in mid-February "on federally owned land east of Bentsen State Park."

Directly east of Bentsen State Park is a refuge tract called El Morillo Banco, which is between the state park and the butterfly center. DOJ declined to comment on the email, and CBP did not respond to several requests for comment.

Land already in the hands of the government becomes an easier place to start con-

struction quickly, said U.S. Rep. Henry Cuellar, D-Laredo. Cuellar has introduced a proposal that would instruct CBP not to build border walls in several places that have environmental and cultural significance.

"The easiest way, historically, is to go to public lands, because who's going to fight them?" he said.

Protesters were walking Monday along the river levee where CBP intends to start construction. The butterfly center said on Facebook that a local police officer had declared all their property south of the levee to be off limits. The center says it intends to take legal action.

Chapman said that despite months of protests and meetings, he hadn't seen "any attempt" from the U.S. government "to acknowledge and to take the needs of wildlife into account."

"If you were going to design a border wall with maximal impact, you would do exactly what they were doing," Chapman said. "You couldn't do it worse."

ACROSS THE NATION

Bail set for 3 arrested in death of 7-year-old Wisconsin boy

MANITOWOC, Wis. (AP)—Bail has been set for two adults and a teen arrested in the death of a 7-year-old Wisconsin boy who was allegedly beaten, forced to carry around a heavy log and was buried in snow. The 15-year-old boy charged with first-degree reckless homicide in the death of Ethan Hauschultz of Newton had cash bail set at \$150,000 Monday. The Herald Times Reporter says

bail for Timothy Hauschultz was set at \$100,000 and for Tina McKeever-Hauschultz at \$75,000. They were Ethan's court-appointed guardians. The complaint says Ethan died last April after being made to carry a 45-pound log outside for punishment while the other boy allegedly kicked, struck and poked him. The cause of death was ruled to be hypothermia and blunt force injuries to the head, chest and abdomen.

ALBUQUERQUE, N.M. (AP)—One person was found dead Monday after an explosion in an alley behind a strip mall in Albuquerque, New Mexico, police said. The cause of the blast was not immediately known. Businesses in the west side mall were evacuated after the early afternoon explosion. No other injuries were reported. Police spokesman Simon Drobik did not immediately release the name of the person who died.

SEATTLE (AP)—Winter weather pounded a swath of the U.S. West on Monday, closing schools, delaying flights and turning streets into sledding hills in coastal cities like Seattle that rarely get much snow. Parts of

California and Montana braced for the threat of mudslides and avalanches this week, while the Midwest warmed up from a dangerous blast of cold last week that is linked to at least 30 deaths in several states. The Pacific Northwest's first major winter snowstorm hit western Washington hardest, closing numerous schools in Seattle and nearby cities, canceling ferry service, and causing car crashes but no major injuries. Some areas north and east of Seattle got 8 to 10 inches (20 to 25 centimeters) of snow.

1 dead after explosion rocks strip mall in New Mexico

SEATTLE (AP)—Winter weather pounded a swath of the U.S. West on Monday, closing schools, delaying flights and turning streets into sledding hills in coastal cities like Seattle that rarely get much snow. Parts of

Political death watch: Virginia governor weighs his future

RICHMOND, Va. (AP)—A political death watch took shape at Virginia's Capitol as Gov. Ralph Northam consulted with top administration officials Monday about whether to resign amid a furor over a racist photo in his 1984 yearbook.

Practically all of the state's Democratic establishment—and Republican leaders, too—turned against the 59-year-old Democrat after the picture surfaced late last week of someone in blackface next to another person in a Ku Klux Klan hood and robe. The photo was on Northam's medical school yearbook page.

The sense of crisis deepened Monday as the politician next in line to be governor, Democratic Lt. Gov. Justin Fairfax, denied an uncorroborated allegation of sexual misconduct first reported by a conservative website. Fairfax told reporters that the 2004 encounter with a woman was consensual, and he called the accusation a political "smear."

Calls from lawmakers for Northam's resignation seemed to ease Monday. State Del. Lamont Bagby, head of the

Protest chants, meanwhile, echoed around Capitol Square. Lobbyists complained they were unable to get legislators to focus on bills. Security guards joked about who was going to be the next governor. Cafeteria workers and members of the cleaning staff shook their heads in wonder. And banks of news cameras were set up outside the governor's Executive Mansion.

Northam stayed out of sight as he met with his Cabinet and senior staff to hear their assessment of whether it was feasible for him to stay in office, according to a top administration official who was not authorized to discuss the matter publicly and spoke on condition of anonymity. The meetings included frank conversations about the difficulties of governing under such circumstances, the person said.

"One way or the other, it needs to be resolved," Layne said.

The furor over the photo erupted on Friday, when Northam first admitted he was in the picture without saying which costume he was wearing, and apologized. But a day

later, he denied he was in the photo, while also acknowledging he once put on blackface to imitate Michael Jackson at a dance contest in Texas decades ago.

The scandal threatens to cripple Northam's ability to govern. In a sign Monday of the challenges he could face, Katherine Rowe, president of the College of William & Mary, canceled an appearance by Northam at an event this Friday because his presence would "fundamentally disrupt the sense of campus unity we aspire to."

Northam, a pediatric neurologist who graduated from Eastern Virginia Medical School and came to politics late in life, is one year into his four-year term. If he resigns, Fairfax will become the second African-American governor in Virginia history.

The state's Republican House speaker said lawmakers are hesitant to seek Northam's impeachment and are hoping he steps down instead.

Asia

PH police: 5 church bombing suspects in custody

MANILA, Philippines

(AP)—Five suspected Abu Sayyaf militants accused of involvement in a deadly suicide attack at a Roman Catholic cathedral in the southern Philippines have surrendered to authorities, the national police chief said Monday amid renewed terrorism fears.

Complaints for murder and attempted murder were filed against the five, as well as several other suspected Abu Sayyaf fighters who remain at large, for their alleged role in the Jan. 27 attack at Our Lady of Mount Carmel Cathedral in Sulu province's Jolo town which killed 23 people and wounded nearly 100 others.

Before the bombing, the detained suspects escorted two Indonesians thought to have carried out the suicide attack around Jolo and to a meet-

ing with an Abu Sayyaf commander, Hatib Hajan Sawadjaan, who has been accused of planning and funding the attack, police Director-General Oscar Albayalde said.

Police said the five suspects were led by a suspected local militant identified as Kammah Pae, who has denied involvement.

Defense Secretary Delfin Lorenzana said Pae may have known about the planned attack but was not directly involved, adding that the military will coordinate with police to sort out differences in their findings. Troops were hunting a different suspect, he said.

“Although he has knowledge about the bombing ... he did not actually participate,” Lorenzana told reporters, without elaborating.

Taliban to take part in ‘intra-Afghan’ talks in Moscow

ISLAMABAD (AP)—The

Taliban said Monday they will participate in “intra-Afghan” talks in Moscow designed to bring together prominent Afghan figures, including former President Hamid Karzai, opposition figures and tribal elders—but no Kabul government officials.

The two-day meeting in the Russian capital, which starts Tuesday, is seen as another step in a process aimed at resolving Afghanistan’s 17-year war, one that has accelerated since the appointment last September of U.S. peace envoy Zalmay Khalilzad.

Khalilzad has been holding separate negotiations with the Taliban even as he presses for a dialogue that would bring together all key Afghan players.

Afghan President Ashraf Ghani’s office criticized the meeting in Moscow, saying that Afghan politicians attending the gathering were doing so “in order to gain power.” Ghani’s chief adviser, Fazel Fazly, tweeted that it was “regrettable.”

Suhail Shaheen, spokesman for the Taliban’s political office in the Gulf Arab state of Qatar, confirmed the insurgents’ participation. A 10-member Taliban delegation would be led by Sher Mohammad Abbas Stanikzai.

The Taliban have refused to talk to Ghani’s government, which they denounce as a U.S. puppet.

A statement released on Monday by Afghans attend-

The attack has renewed terrorism fears across the Philippines. The national police have been placed on full alert and security has been strengthened in churches, shopping malls and other public areas. President Rodrigo Duterte has ordered troops to destroy the Abu Sayyaf, leading to a renewed military offensive in the south that has included air strikes and gunbattles.

The attack has also highlighted concerns that the Islamic State group may be

gaining a foothold in Southeast Asia after sustaining major battle setbacks in Syria and Iraq. Local militants aligned with the extremist group laid siege to Marawi city in the southern Philippines for five months in 2017 before they were defeated by the military.

Albayalde said the Abu Sayyaf, a small but violent group based in the jungles of predominantly Muslim Jolo and outlying island provinces, staged the cathedral bombing to gain attention and possible

funding from the Islamic State group. The militants also want to foment sectarian conflict between minority Muslims in the south and the country’s majority Christians, he said.

The Abu Sayyaf, which has about 300 to 400 armed fighters, has been blacklisted by the United States and the Philippines as a terrorist organization because of years of bombings, kidnappings and beheadings. The commander whom police have implicated in the cathedral attack, Saw-

adjaan, is a Muslim preacher who has been linked to ransom kidnappings and the beheadings of hostages, including two Canadian men in 2016.

Citing witnesses to the bombing and statements by some of the suspects, Albayalde said Sawadjaan funded the assembly of the cathedral bombs, which most likely were detonated by an Indonesia man who had hidden in the south for about a year, and an Indonesian woman who only recently entered the south.



In this photo provided by Philippine National Police, Director General Oscar Albayalde, Chief of the Philippine National Police, points to the diagram during a news conference Monday, Feb. 4, 2019 at Camp Crame in suburban Quezon city northeast of Manila, to announce that five suspected Abu Sayyaf militants wanted for alleged involvement in the bombing of a church in southern Philippines have surrendered to authorities.

In year of the pig, Hong Kong has had enough of wild ones

HONG KONG (AP)—It may be the year of the pig, but Hong Kong has had enough of the wild ones.

Authorities in the densely populated financial center are looking for ways to cut down on potentially dangerous encounters between humans and wild boars that have increased as the city’s ballooning population expands into former wilderness.

Boars are now frequent sights on roadways, in parks and housing developments and even in shopping centers, and there is concern that the animals have lost their fear of humans.

While the government is pushing for softer measures such as sterilization for the pigs and education for humans who feed them, others say the solution is a full-scale cull of the swine.

The debate about how to handle the wild boars comes

as the city of more than 7 million people is being festooned with pig-themed decorations in preparation for the Lunar New Year holiday that officially begins Tuesday. The pig is one of 12 animals that in the Chinese zodiac’s 12-year cycle.

Not far from its cramped apartment blocks and neon lights, Hong Kong has plenty of untouched land, traditionally home to a variety of animals, including wild boars. Some areas where homes are close to parks or forests, such as Aberdeen in Hong Kong Island’s south, have become popular spots for growing numbers of boars to forage for food amid the garbage cans.

The government’s Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department says it doesn’t know how many wild boars there are in Hong Kong.

But it has acknowledged a big increase in public complaints about the animals in recent years—from 294 in 2013, to 738 in 2017.

That prompted a review of policy starting last year, which included a halt to hunts by volunteers for boars deemed to be threats to property or public safety.

Instead, the government is extending a policy of sterilizing the animals and feeding them contraceptives, as well as discouraging the public from providing them food. It also captures and tries to relocate wild boars away from residential areas as an alternative to killing them.

However, one local organization, “Wild Boar 70,” is lobbying for the renewed culling of the wild boar population.

Other countries with large

populations of wild pigs have a policy of controlling them by killing large numbers every year, according to spokesman Wesley Ho.

“Our goal is hopefully to raise public concern about Hong Kong’s current problem of wild boar overpopulation, and about exactly what kind of animal these wild boars are,” Ho said.

Nations such as France and the U.S. have to deal with large-scale damage to agriculture wrought by feral pigs, largely appealing to hunters as a solution.

Denmark this month began erecting a 70-kilometer (43.4-mile) fence along the German border to keep out wild boars in an attempt to prevent the spread of African swine fever, which could jeopardize the country’s valuable pork industry.

World

Pope in historic UAE visit urges faith leaders to reject war

ABU DHABI, United Arab Emirates (AP)—Pope Francis urged religious leaders Monday to work together to reject the “miserable crudeness” of war as he opened the first-ever papal visit to the Arabian Peninsula, the birthplace of Islam, with a strong denunciation of violence committed in God’s name.

In a keynote speech to an interfaith gathering in the United Arab Emirates, Francis warned that the future of humanity was at stake unless religions come together to resist the “logic of armed power ... the arming of borders, the raising of walls.”

“There is no alternative: we will either build the future together or there will not be a future,” Francis told Abu Dhabi’s powerful crown prince and hundreds of imams, muftis, ministers, rabbis and swamis gathered in the Emirati capital at a time when the UAE-backed Saudi war in Yemen has driven the Arab world’s poorest country to the brink of famine.

“God is with those who seek peace,” Francis added.

Francis’ speech, delivered at the Emirates’ Founders’ Memorial, capped a historic day that began when he arrived at the presidential palace for a welcome ceremony in a tiny Kia hatchback—only to



Sheikh Ahmed el-Tayeb, the grand imam of Egypt’s Al-Azhar, left, welcomes Pope Francis ahead of a private meeting with members of the Muslim council of elders, at the Grand Mosque of Sheikh Zayed, in Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates, Monday, Feb. 4, 2019. AP

be greeted by an artillery salute and military flyover by a country at war.

Even for a nation known for excess, the Emiratis’ red-carpet welcome was remarkable, especially for a pope who prides himself on simplicity. It featured horse-mounted

guards escorting the pontiff’s motorcade through the palace gardens while the flyover trailed the yellow and white smoke of the Vatican flag.

Francis’ speech to the gathering of faith leaders was the highlight of his 40-hour visit to Abu Dhabi. His trip concludes

Tuesday with the first papal Mass on the Arabian Peninsula, a gathering expected to draw some 135,000 faithful in a never-before-seen display of public Christian worship here.

Francis’ visit, 800 years after his peace-loving namesake St. Francis of Assisi visited an

Egyptian sultan, marked the culmination of years of Holy See efforts to improve relations with the Muslim world after they hit a low during the papacy of Pope Benedict XVI. Since then, religious fanaticism and faith-inspired wars have only grown around the globe.

EU nations endorse Venezuela opposition leader over Maduro

CARACAS, Venezuela (AP)—More than a dozen European Union countries endorsed Venezuelan opposition leader Juan Guaido as the country’s interim president Monday, piling the pressure on embattled President Nicolas Maduro to resign and clear the way for a new presidential election.

Maduro stood defiant, rejecting a U.S offer of humanitarian aid that has shifted attention to Venezuela’s western border with Colombia, where opponents were gearing up to try to bring emergency food and medicine into the country.

“We are not beggars,” Maduro said in a speech to troops broadcast on Venezuelan state TV.

Spain, Germany, France and Britain delivered diplomatic blows to Maduro’s rule by publicly supporting Guaido after a Sunday deadline for Maduro to call a presidential election passed without action. Sweden, Denmark, Austria, the Netherlands, Lithuania, Finland, Estonia, Latvia, the Czech Republic, Luxembourg, Poland and Portugal also lined up behind Guaido, who last month declared himself interim president with the support

of the United States and many Latin American nations.

In Canada’s capital, foreign ministers from the Lima Group of 13 Western Hemisphere countries that took the lead in recognizing Guaido as Venezuela’s rightful leader discussed additional steps to pressure Maduro.

Before the closed-door meeting got under way, Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau condemned a “dictatorship willing to use force and fear” to maintain its power. He also announced \$53 million in humanitarian aid to support the Venezuelan people.

“We know that the people of Venezuela are facing tremendous hardship and they need our help, as do the countries that have taken in those fleeing violence,” Trudeau said.

The coalition called upon Venezuela’s military to allow badly needed food and medicine across the border and show their loyalty to Guaido. They also urged the United Nations and the international community to step up with humanitarian assistance.

Maduro showed no signs of caving in and lashed out at the EU, accusing it of taking

orders from the Trump administration, who he has repeatedly accused of trying to carry out a coup to get its hands on Venezuela’s oil reserves, the world’s largest.

But he stopped short of breaking off diplomatic relations with the 16 European countries that recognized his rival Monday, unlike his swift move to cut off ties with the U.S. after it threw its support behind Guaido last month. A growing list of 38 countries has now recognized Guaido, including non-EU European nations Kosovo, Iceland and Albania.

Long-time backers Russia and China are among at least nine nations that have declared their support for Maduro.

Maduro was especially harsh on fellow socialist and Spain’s Prime Minister Pedro Sanchez, saying he would have “blood on his hands” if Maduro is toppled.

“They gave us an ultimatum, as if Venezuela was being governed from Madrid,” said Maduro, who was addressing troops Monday on the 27th anniversary of the failed military uprising that thrust his political mentor, the late Hugo Chavez, onto the national stage.

WORLD BRIEFS

Iraqi president hits back at Trump over US army presence

BAGHDAD (AP)—Iraq’s president hit back at Donald Trump Monday for saying U.S. troops should stay in Iraq to keep an eye on neighboring Iran, saying the U.S. leader did not ask for Iraq’s permission to do so. “We find these comments strange,” said Barham Salih, speaking at a forum in Baghdad. Trump’s comments added to concerns in Iraq about America’s long-term intentions, particularly after it withdraws its troops from Syria. Trump has angered Iraqi politicians and Iranian-backed factions by arguing he would keep U.S. troops in Iraq and use it as a base to strike Islamic State group targets inside Syria as needed. In an interview with CBS News’ “Face the Nation,” he said U.S. troops in Iraq were also needed to monitor Iran. “He didn’t ask Iraq about this,” Salih said Monday. He said U.S. troops were in Iraq as part of an agreement between the two countries with a specific mission of assisting in the fight against the Islamic State group and combatting “terrorism.”

He said the Iraqi constitution forbids the use of Iraq as a base to threaten the interests or security of neighboring countries. “Don’t overburden Iraq with your own issues,” he added.

German police catch suspect in Amsterdam watch robbery

BERLIN (AP)—German police say they have caught a suspect over the theft of watches worth some 125,000 euros (\$143,000) from an Amsterdam jeweler. Federal police said the 34-year-old Estonian man, whose name wasn’t released, was arrested on Friday evening as he crossed the border hours later after the robbery. They said in a statement Monday that he was picked up in a routine check on a bus traveling from Amsterdam to Berlin as it stopped at a rest area near the Dutch border on the A280 highway. Officers found 14 luxury watches, still with their price tags, and an air pistol in his backpack. Police said the man admitted to carrying out the robbery some five hours earlier. He

now faces extradition to the Netherlands.

Avalanche death toll in the Italian Alps rises to 6

ROME (AP)—Rescuers on Monday located the bodies of four skiers in Italy’s Alps, a day after they went missing, raising the death toll in recent avalanches in the country to six. The Valdostano Alpine Rescue aircraft, searching for two British and two French skiers who had gone skiing on Sunday in the Veny valley near the resort town of Courmayeur, spotted three of the bodies in early morning. Later in the day, the Italian news agency ANSA quoted Valdostano Alpine Rescue rescue official Paolo Comune as saying searchers had found the body of the fourth skier, a Polish native who resided in Chamonix, France. On Sunday, two Italian skiers were killed by avalanches—one in the Valle d’Aosta region, the other in the Alto Adige (South Tyrol) region. Authorities had warned that avalanche danger was high in the Italian Alps over the weekend.

The Jesuit pope capitalized on his relationship with Sheikh Ahmed el-Tayeb, the grand imam of Egypt’s Al-Azhar, the revered 1,000-year-old seat of Sunni learning, to make the historic trip. They found welcome in the Emirates, which prides itself on its tolerance in a region known for severely restricting religious freedom and is home to a remarkably vibrant Catholic community that by some estimates numbers 1 million faithful in a federation of 9 million.

At the end of the interfaith meeting, Francis and el-Tayeb signed a joint statement on “human fraternity” and their hopes for world peace, and then laid the cornerstones for a new church and mosque to be built side-by-side in Abu Dhabi. The document, in Arabic and Italian, describes itself as being written in the name of “all victims of wars, persecution and injustice; ... and those tortured in any part of the world, without distinction.”

Focus

By JUNG YOON KIM
ASSOCIATED PRESS

SEOUL, South Korea (AP)—As she pursued her dream of becoming a fashion model, veering for years between extreme dieting and overeating, Park I Seul realized she had a problem: She was not tall and skinny, like typical runway models, nor was she big enough to be a plus-size model.

She also realized that the only way to meet South Korea's lofty beauty standards was for her to continuously deny who she truly is.

So Park, 25, began calling herself a "natural size model"—a nearly unheard-of term in South Korea—which she defines as someone with the same kind of body you see in daily life, as opposed to a difficult-to-attain ideal. She began to get work, and she started a popular YouTube channel where she introduces fashions for women who look more like her than like the women in fashion magazines.

Her newfound positive view of her body makes her part of a growing movement by South Korean women to resist what they see as extreme pressure to look a certain way.

Hundreds of young women have taken to social media with the hashtag "talcorset," or take off the corset, to encourage others to free themselves from social stereotypes about their appearance that they feel have long bound them.

Park recently held what she called a "nondiscriminatory" fashion show in Seoul, where models varied in height and weight confidently strode across the stage. Other women have posted online photos or video clips showing themselves cutting their hair short, destroying their beauty products and going to school or work without makeup.

In South Korea, a woman weighing over 50 kilograms (110 pounds) is considered by many to be chubby, regardless of how tall she is.

Park herself is 165 centimeters (5 feet 5 inches) tall and weighs 62 kilograms (137 pounds), which she says puts her far from the minimum 170 centimeters (5 feet 7 inches) and 40 to 48 kilograms (88 to 106 pounds) weight that conventional fashion models have; she's also nowhere near the XL and above sizes demanded for plus-size models.

"I used to think that my fat body wasn't the real me and that living in such a body wasn't my real life. I kept denying myself. I believed that my life would only become happy after I lost weight,"



AP

In this Jan. 23, 2019, photo, Park Jiehyun, features director at Cosmopolitan Korea, watches fashion magazine during an interview in Seoul, South Korea. South Korea has the world's highest ratio of plastic surgeons per capita, according to a report by the International Society of Plastic Surgery in 2016. According to 2015 statistics by Gallup Korea, about one third of South Korean women between 19 and 29 said they've had plastic surgery. "I think (South Korean women) want to look perfect," said Park Jiehyun, features director at Cosmopolitan Korea, a popular fashion magazine. "They believe they should have a nice body and skin, beautiful eyes, nose and mouth, and even sleek hair with a perfect hairline. They also want to have good style." But Park says rising feminist movements and changing values among South Korean women are redirecting her industry's depiction of beauty.

South Korean women

begin to resist intense beauty pressure

Park said. "I've come to think that I look good enough just the way I am."

South Korea is a deeply conservative country, and experts say its patriarchal society encourages rampant sexism.

It had the largest gender pay gap among developed countries in 2017, according to the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development, and ranks 115th out of 149 nations in the World Economic Forum's global index of overall gender parity in 2018, among the lowest-ranking G-20 countries.

According to a 2018 survey by Saramin, a leading South Korean recruitment website,

57 percent of human resources managers at South Korean companies agreed that job applicants' appearances influenced their evaluations. The survey also showed that female applicants are more affected by their looks on their job evaluations than male applicants.

As more women begin to embrace feminism, there's also a new willingness to challenge strict South Korean societal demands that force

women to take extreme care of their looks, according to Sohn Hee-jeong, a researcher at the Institute of Gender Studies at Yonsei University in Seoul.

Consider, for instance, a video by Cha Ji Won, a 24-year-old YouTuber who runs a channel called "Korean Womyn." The video, which has gotten more than 720,000 views, shows her daily routine after she stopped obsessing over her hair and wearing makeup every day and began choosing and wearing comfortable clothes.

It now takes her half the time to prepare to go outside as in the past, and she says she eats whatever she wants and doesn't think about calories.

"I hoped that by letting other women know that there is someone like me, I could remind them that they don't have to care too much (about how they look) and spend so much money and time on their appearance," Cha said in an interview.

The movement can also be found in schools.

An 18-year-old high school senior who wished to be identified only by her last name,

Hong, because of worries about her future studies recently exposed a series of lectures at her all girls' school that promoted a focus on women's appearance as they entered college. The lecture titles included, "Makeup for college freshmen," "Fashion styling for college freshmen" and "How to make a healthy body figure."

Hong objected to her high school recommending classes that appeared to encourage female students to "take care" of their appearance. Hong and some other students contacted journalists to complain about the lectures, prompting the school to remove the classes.

Hong said she put on makeup for the first time when she was in elementary school and was wearing full makeup by high school. She no longer wears makeup and questions why women must always be judged on how they look. However, many children are ashamed of what in Korean is called ssaeng-eol, or bare face,

Hong says, and won't go outside without makeup.

South Korea has the world's

highest ratio of plastic surgeons per capita, according to a report by the International Society of Plastic Surgery in 2016. According to 2015 statistics by Gallup Korea, about one third of South Korean women between 19 and 29 said they've had plastic surgery.

"I think (South Korean women) want to look perfect," said Park Jiehyun, features director at Cosmopolitan Korea, a popular fashion magazine. "They believe they should have a nice body and skin, beautiful eyes, nose and mouth, and even sleek hair with a perfect hairline. They also want to have good style."

But Park says rising feminist movements and changing values among South Korean women are redirecting her industry's depiction of beauty.

In its December issue, Cosmopolitan Korea featured a popular South Korean comedian, Lee Young-ja, as the cover model. Lee is larger than the typical skinny cover models the magazine uses.

Still, there's often intense beauty pressure at work. Choi Min Jeong, a former

employee at a beverage company, still remembers her boss telling her that she had to work harder because she wasn't as beautiful as a popular South Korean actress.

"Although he said it as a joke, I thought it was ridiculous that he said it when ... my job was unrelated to appearance," Choi said.

Airline companies often demand a stricter dress code for female flight attendants, according to Kwon Su Jeong, a Seoul councilwoman who has worked for Asiana, a major South Korean airline, for 24 years. Kwon is currently on a leave of absence to work in the city council.

"They control everything, from your hairstyle to the color of your lipstick and nails to the length and shape of your earrings," Kwon said.

Although Asiana eased a "skirts-only" rule in 2013, many flight attendants still wear them because of worries of negative performance appraisals, Kwon said. Asiana strongly denied that it makes unfair demands or puts pressure on its employees regarding attire or appearance.

Kwon said the company's upper management wants its flight attendants to uphold an image of a graceful, beautiful Asian woman who provides sincere service to customers. Because the company cares a lot about the appearance of its female employees it puts subtle pressure on them to have cosmetic procedures, she said.

"Although the company is rigid about taking a day off because of injury at work, it is more lenient about taking time off for cosmetic procedures," Kwon said.

Good Housekeeping

Spineless prickly pear offers incredible beauty and texture

By NORMAN WINTER
TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

One year after retiring from the University of Georgia's

Coastal Georgia Botanical Gardens in Savannah I find myself desperately missing cactus. I know what you are thinking if The Garden Guy

is writing about cactus, we must get our affairs and lives together as this is a sure sign of the coming apocalypse.

To be honest a hot new veg-



Native Georgia Savory creates a wonderful contrast with the spineless prickly pear.

etable gardening book titled "Grow What You Love" by Emily Murphy got me thinking, not necessarily of vegetables but all things gardening. I use to make fun of people who grew cactus and I feel so ashamed now. No doubt those gardeners were growing what they loved. Now don't get me wrong, my snickering never left the front seat of that car.

At the Coastal Georgia Botanical Gardens, we grew thornless prickly pear in our Mediterranean Garden and the new Sun Garden. It offers the landscape an extravaganza of texture with its large pad and subsequent yellow blooms. I've often said all colors look better combined with lime green and in the case of prickly pear the look of every partner seems to be enhanced. It will standout at it reaches 3 to 4 feet in height.

We grew it in combinations with dryland bromeliads like Cherry Coke and Silver Nickel, near by were Soap Aloe and Giant Agave. All combined for an eye candy feast of texture. Then there were the flower partners like Mexican Bush Sage, Candy Corn Cuphea and Ragin Cajun Ruellia all looking quite dazzling and at home with the cactus. One of my favorites was the native Georgia Savory not only blooming but also offering a contrasting finer leaf texture.

Botanically speaking the spineless prickly pear is Opun-



Spineless prickly pear is so picturesque with blue agave and Mediterranean fan palms in the background.

tia. Like many other plants there seems to be small taxonomic skirmish. You'll find *Opuntia ellisiana*, *Opuntia* and *canacana* 'Ellisiana'. Most agree we can credit the famous horticulturist and breeder Luther Burbank with the creation.

Note I said most. Varieties like Gravity, Royal, Prolific and Melrose are his releases.

Generically speaking however this cactus is cold hardy from zones 6-10. As you might guess plenty of sun and good drainage are pretty much paramount to your success. You easily imagine them being easy to grow in Texas and the West but I assure you in Savannah they were the proverbial 'Piece of Cake'. At Clemson University in South Carolina, Patrick McMillan has created an envious display of Southwestern species to show you their wide range of adaptability.

The spineless cactus offers the culinary artist at least three opportunities for the kitchen. The pad of the cactus (nopal) can be used like a vegetable while the petals of flowers incorporated into salads. The one you might be most familiar with however is the pear (tuna) which can be treated like a fruit.

As a young adult on a church outing in New Mexico I tumbled down a hillside coming to rest in a prickly pear. This is an experience that will always be remembered. Growing the spineless prickly pear however will be a most pleasant experience with the ultimate reward being beauty of both flower and texture.

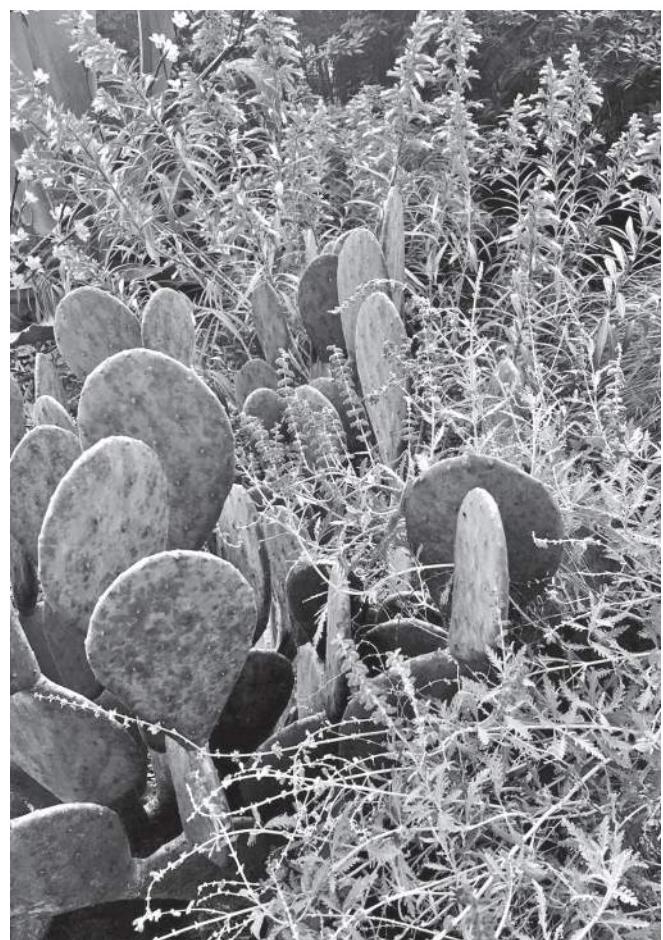
The Garden Bug

Making your own ant bait



Mix one part borax with 3 parts powdered sugar. Fill tiny containers (such as bottle caps) with the bait, and place them where you suspect ants are entering your house. If you see trails of ants, place small containers of the mixture directly in their path. They will carry the bait back to the nest, unable to differentiate between the borax and sugar, and the borax particles will eventually kill the entire colony. Keep leaving out bait until no more ants are seen wandering. - Brenda Weaver

Source: www.diynatural.com



Spineless prickly pear creates a sensational texture combined with candy corn cuphea and Mexican bush sage.

Life & Style

Fun moments before, during and after the Oscars luncheon

BEVERLY HILLS, Calif. (AP)—Nominees for the 91st annual Academy Awards convened at the Beverly Hilton Hotel Monday for this year's Oscar Nominees Luncheon, a gathering that gives honorees a chance to socialize at an event where everyone's name will be called and they'll get a moment onstage.

That moment is for the "class photo," but the day is so much more. For some nominees, it's the first time

they'll meet someone whose work they cherish. Many will do interviews where they can reflect on their films, and look ahead to the Feb. 24 and what they'll wear and who they'll thank.

Here are a few moments from Monday's gathering, both inside the ballroom and in interviews with The Associated Press.

PART OF THE .1 PERCENT

Richard E. Grant is basking in his Oscar nomination, includ-

ing a joke about him being an "overnight success."

Grant is nominated for best supporting actor for "Can You Ever Forgive Me?", which is his first nomination. He says Steve Martin, with whom he co-starred in "L.A. Story," emailed him Sunday: "Congratulations on your overnight success." Grant cackled with laughter recounting the message.

"I'm one of those actors, like the majority, 99.9 percent of actors, who don't get nominated or awarded things. So that's just the way it is, unless your name is Helen Mirren or Judy Dench or that tiny group of people who always get nominated," Grant said.

"It's all unbelievable."

DEBATING A PRE-NOON COCKTAIL

How early is too early for a

cocktail? "Spider-Man: Into the Spider-Verse" writer and producer Phil Lord found himself among the early arrivals to the annual Academy Awards Nominees Luncheon contemplating that very question. With few around to talk to yet, a companion told Lord that she was headed to the bar.

"Oh great idea," Lord said in deadpan with a little laugh. "It's not yet noon, right?"

While the passed champagne and wine may have sat out for a bit when the doors to the Beverly Hilton Ballroom opened at 11, by noon, the nominees and guests were ready to toast.

Lord eventually found some fellow early birds to socialize with, by the way, in "Free Solo" climber Alex Honnold and best actress nominee Glenn Close.

SUPER BOWL SHADE

It's the day after the Super Bowl and Regina King walks through a restaurant at the Beverly Hilton Hotel when she spots a fan in a New England Patriots jersey.

"Congratulations," the effervescent best supporting actress nominee shouts to the man, in a less than enthusiastic tone.

If there are any hard feelings about the Patriots winning the Super Bowl, King certainly doesn't have them for the man wearing the Tedy Bruschi jersey. She stops and shoots a selfie with the man and his companion before heading off to do interviews.

A SPECIAL TIE FOR JENKINS

Barry Jenkins chose his Oscar luncheon attire care-

fully, pairing a dark suit with bees stitched on it with a burgundy tie.

"I bought this tie when I was broke," Jenkins explained. "Not that I'm not broke now."

And busy. Jenkins was seated at a table Monday that included best supporting actress nominee Rachel Weisz and Disney CEO Bob Iger. He said the conversation turned to hobbies. Jenkins wouldn't divulge how others pass their spare time, but said he didn't have one at the moment. "Right now, I'm just obsessed with work."

Jenkins is nominated for best adapted screenplay for "If Beale Street Could Talk" and explained why he wanted to keep some things around from before he was famous.

He said he always wants "to keep a few things around that predate all this (expletive)."

Barbara Ehrenreich tweets about Marie Kondo widely condemned

NEW YORK (AP)—An online takedown of Marie Kondo by author-journalist Barbara Ehrenreich has been widely condemned as racist and xenophobic. Ehrenreich says it was a joke gone wrong.



Kondo

Ehrenreich tweeted Monday that she saw Kondo's popularity as a sign of America's decline and wished that the Japanese "de-cluttering guru" would "learn to speak English." She later tweeted that she was "sorry" if she had offended anyone and called her previ-

ous comment a missed attempt at "subtle humor."

Ehrenreich is a prominent liberal who writes often about the working class, notably in the best-selling "Nickel and Dimed."

Prize-winning novelist Rebecca Makkai was among those calling Ehrenreich's first tweet racist. She also lamented comments by such fellow liberals as Katha Pollitt, who cited Kondo's speaking Japanese as "adding to her fairy-like delicacy and charm."

Statue of limitations? Facebook draws line over museum nudes

GENEVA (AP)—A Geneva art museum says Facebook prohibited it from promoting an upcoming exhibit with images of two statues—a half-naked Venus and a nude, kneeling man.

The Museum of Art and History took to Twitter to say it had wanted to post pictures of the statues on Facebook to promote the "Caesar and the Rhone" exhibit that opens Friday, but the social media platform "prevented us from it, because of their nudity."

The museum instead put the images on Twitter on Friday with the French word for "censored" over the statues' presumably private parts, adding: "Maybe it's time that this platform changes its policy for museums and cultural institutions?"

Facebook didn't immediately respond to an email from The Associated Press seeking comment.

The museum's 3½-month exhibit pulls together works from the Louvre Museum in Paris, an antiquities museum in Arles, France, and other in-

stitutions to convey Caesar's invasion of the Rhone River region running through Geneva and southeast France to the Mediterranean.

The marble statue of "Venus of Arles" was made in the first century and depicts the goddess posed with one arm outstretched and a robe draped around her waist. The first-century B.C. bronze of a bearded captive shows him with his hands seemingly bound behind his back, symbolizing Rome's triumph over Gallic tribes.

Museum of Art and History spokeswoman Sylvie Treglia-Detraz said a first attempt to post the images drew a Facebook response: "We don't allow ads that depict nudity, even if it isn't sexual in nature. This includes the use of nudity for artistic or educational purposes."

The issue strikes at the differing attitudes about nudity in Europe, where topless and even nude beaches and parks aren't unusual, and in the United States, where government officials have been known to cover up topless statues.

Awkwafina, Tina Fey, Jennifer Lopez to present at Oscars

NEW YORK (AP)—Tina Fey, Whoopi Goldberg and Brie Larson will be presenters at the 91st Academy Awards.

The Academy of Motion Pictures Arts and Sciences on Monday announced its first slate of presenters. Also among the 13 stars are Daniel Craig, Jennifer Lopez, Amandla Stenberg and Awkwafina.

Chris Evans, Amy Poehler, Maya Rudolph, Charlize Theron, Tessa Thompson and Constance Wu will also take the Oscar stage as presenters.

There has been some acrimony over exclusive rights to some presenters this year. The Screen Actors Guild earlier criticized the film academy for requiring that its potential present-

This combination photo shows, top row from left, Tina Fey, Daniel Craig, Constance Wu, and bottom row from left, Awkwafina, Chris Evans and Tessa Thompson, who will be presenters at the 91st Academy Awards on Feb. 24. AP

ers not appear at previous awards shows.

ABC will broadcast the

Oscars live on February 24. No host has been announced after Kevin Hart stepped

down following a backlash over past homophobic tweets by the comedian.



Ginsburg makes 1st public appearance since cancer surgery

WASHINGTON (AP)—Supreme Court Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg is making her first public appearance since undergoing lung cancer surgery in December.

The 85-year-old Ginsburg is attending a concert at a museum a few blocks from the White House that is being given by her daughter-in-law and other musicians. Patrice Michaels is married

to Ginsburg's son, James. Michaels is a soprano and composer.

The concert is dedicated to Ginsburg's life in the law.

Ginsburg had surgery in New York on Dec. 21. She missed arguments at the court in January, her first illness-related absence in more than 25 years as a justice.

She has been recuperating at her home in Washington

since late December.

Ginsburg had two previous bouts with cancer. She had colorectal cancer in 1999 and pancreatic cancer in 2009.

The justice sat in the back of the darkened auditorium at the National Museum of Women in the Arts.

The National Constitution Center, which sponsored the concert, did not permit photography.

James Ginsburg said before the concert that his mother is walking a mile a day and meeting with her personal trainer twice a week.

The performance concluded with a song set to Ginsburg's answers to questions.

In introducing the last song, Michaels said, "bring our show to a close, but not the epic and notorious story of RBG."

Adam Levine's Super Bowl nipple reveal prompts backlash

NEW YORK (AP)—First, critics panned Maroon 5's Super Bowl halftime performance. Then social media folks went full-on snark over Adam Levine's throw pillow-like tank top design. Then he peeled off the busy brown shirt and the snark turned to outrage over his exposed nipples.

The bare-chested moment Sunday had some feminists and Janet Jackson supporters focused on how male and female nipples are treated differently in life, especially on network TV and by the NFL years after Jackson's career was derailed by a split-second halftime reveal.

"Double standard, much?" is how an *InStyle* headline neatly summed up the issue in the light of day Monday as the media noted how the hate quickly built online. Singer-songwriter Neko Case aptly captured the mood in an F-bomb-infused tweet likening the frontman to a half-nude greased pig.

Jackson's 2004 wardrobe malfunction, thanks to Justin Timberlake's tug on her bodge, earned CBS a \$550,000 Federal Communications Commission fine that was later voided by an appeals court. Levine's nipples enjoyed far more stage time.

A CBS spokesman, Chris Ender, and an NFL spokesman, Brian McCarthy, did not immediately return email re-

quests for comment Monday.

Kimberly Seals Allers, a journalist and breastfeeding advocate, wrote of the male-female double standard on public exposure of nipples in her 2017 book, "The Big Letdown: How Medicine, Big Business and Feminism Undermine Breastfeeding." She was watching the game Sunday and joined the Twitter choir with some research she had done.

Public breastfeeding has become a flashpoint for controversy over exposure of female nipples, from the arrests of women who do it around the globe to restaurants who have banned it.

Interestingly, she wrote, male nipples were also sexualized and banned from public view until men protested, ignited in 1930 when four were arrested in Coney Island for going shirtless on a beach.

"Then Hollywood icon Clark Gable stripped off his shirt in 'It Happened One Night,'" Allers wrote, "marking the scandalous debut of a man's uncensored nipples in American cinema."

In 1935 New Jersey, 42 topless men were arrested in Atlantic City during a demonstration, according to the book. By 1936, however, after ongoing protests, neighboring New York lifted its ban on men going topless and "sud-

denly a man's nipples were no longer 'obscene' in society but, rather, commonplace and natural," Allers wrote.

Such an effort has been made for women in recent years, spurred on by the 2015 "Free the Nipple" movie and movement, but little headway has been made.

Allers said Monday by telephone that the Jackson controversy was the first thing she thought of when she watched Levine peel off his tank.

"The issue was around the nipple itself," she said of the decades-old bans on topless men. "Clark Gable really did what was considered a very provocative thing in the movie by taking off his shirt and that was the first time," she said. "Ever since then it became very commonplace, versus what happened to women, where their fight to not sexualize their breasts didn't have the same success."

She called it a "trap," and Jackson's Super Bowl moment remains a solid example, Allers said. It's the first thing she thought of when Levine took the show to skin.

"I thought, it must be nice to have that freedom, which women don't have," Allers said. "Janet Jackson is still being punished for that. There's just not the same level of dialogue around men and their bodies."

Oprah offers big stage for Beto O'Rourke's re-emergence

AUSTIN, Texas (AP)—Beto O'Rourke's weeks of near-silence end on a massive stage when he sits down for an interview with Oprah Winfrey.

The appearance Tuesday on "Oprah's SuperSoul Conversations from Times Square" comes ahead of a possible presidential campaign and puts O'Rourke's charisma put to the test.

O'Rourke dazzled Democrats last year by nearly defeating Republican Sen. Ted Cruz in the country's largest red state. But his presidential prospects have been overshadowed more recently with the generally well-received 2020 campaign launches of Sens. Kamala Harris of California, Elizabeth Warren of Massachusetts and Cory Booker of New Jersey.

After months of on-and-off again flirtation with a campaign, O'Rourke's supporters say they're ready for some clarity.

Winfrey herself has been the center of 2020 speculation, though she has said she doesn't plan to run.



O'Rourke

hoping that he will announce on Oprah, which would be so fitting," said Nate Lerner, co-founder of Draft Beto, a group of Democratic activists who are raising money and building a potential campaign infrastructure should O'Rourke run. "I'm hoping he at least does give some indication of where he's at."

Lerner may not even get that much, though. O'Rourke's aides say he is still making up his mind on a White House run and isn't expected to announce a decision during Tuesday's taping.

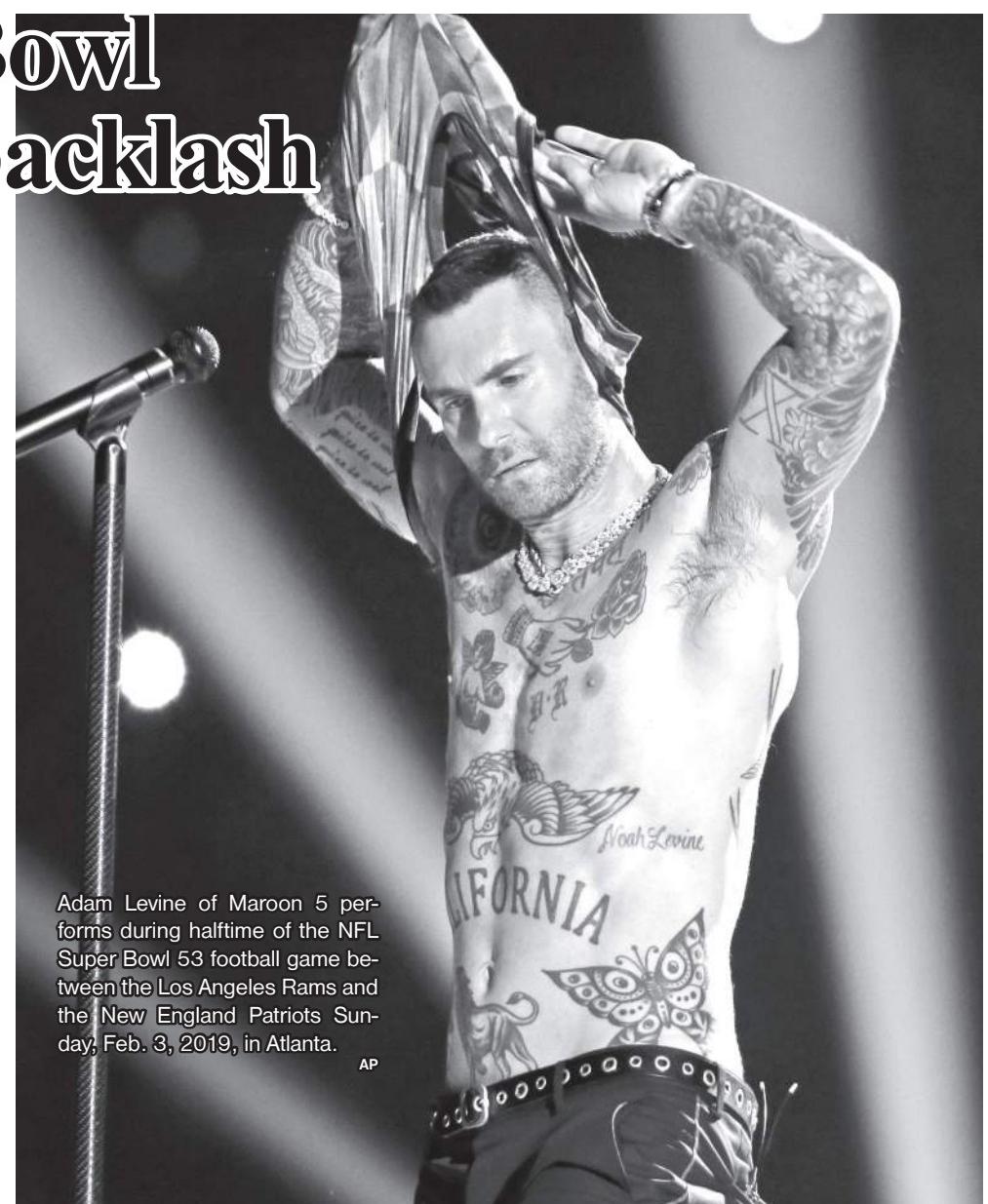
Still, his association with Winfrey could be helpful if O'Rourke decides to pursue a campaign. Winfrey's endorsement of Barack Obama was pivotal to his 2008 campaign. She also took the rare step of campaigning for Democrat Stacey Abrams ahead of her near-upset in the Georgia governor's race.

Winfrey herself has been the center of 2020 speculation, though she has said she doesn't plan to run.

Her show blurs the line between politics and pop culture. The lineup on Tuesday also features actors Bradley Cooper and Michael B. Jordan and philanthropist Melinda Gates, underscoring the sense of celebrity that surrounds O'Rourke.

The taping comes amid the fallout of a racist photo on Virginia Gov. Ralph Northam's medical school yearbook page. While all of the declared Democratic presidential candidates have demanded Northam's resignation, O'Rourke hasn't commented. That may change if he's pressed by Winfrey.

O'Rourke's low profile in recent weeks has taken curious turns. He treated Instagram followers to a glimpse inside his mouth during a teeth cleaning while trying to decry the Trump administration's border wall. He also recently traveled in Texas, New Mexico, Oklahoma, Kansas and Colorado, but his meandering online posts documenting the journey highlighted things like the open-face roast beef sandwich he had for lunch rather than offering hints about how he'd handle the rigors of a presidential campaign.



Adam Levine of Maroon 5 performs during halftime of the NFL Super Bowl 53 football game between the Los Angeles Rams and the New England Patriots Sunday, Feb. 3, 2019, in Atlanta.

AP

AARP film awards for grownups honor Shirley MacLaine

BEVERLY HILLS, Calif. (AP)—Have you got a grown-up state of mind? If so, the AARP has some film awards just for you.

For the 18th year, the organization for retired persons and its AARP, The Magazine, have awarded their "Movies for Grownups." The ceremony was held Monday night and will be broadcast Feb. 15 on PBS.

Shirley MacLaine was honored for career achievement and "Green Book" was named best picture/best movie for grown-ups. Glenn Close

21 Savage's English origins stun fans of the Atlanta rapper

LOS ANGELES (AP)—It was a shock for fans when 21 Savage was taken into custody by U.S. immigration agents in Georgia. It was an even bigger shock to learn he had been an immigrant in the first place.

The Grammy-nominated rapper and his music are so deeply associated with Atlanta that the notion he was actually born in England and brought to the U.S. at age 12 felt downright bizarre.

Scores of surprised tweets came after his Sunday arrest. Memes bloomed that some called cruel under the circumstances, including one of him dressed as a Buckingham Palace guard, along with an old video of him talking in a mock English accent about tea and crumpets.

"It seems so outlandish that

the prototypical Atlanta rapper is not from Atlanta," said Samuel Hines, a writer and editor at GQ who researched 21 Savage and spent a day with him for a profile in the magazine last year.

"I think that's why so many people were sort of making fun of him, and making memes."

By all accounts, few knew his real birthplace, and it certainly wasn't publicly known. His accent gave no indication, and his birth name, Sha Yaa Bin Abraham-Joseph, could come from any number of birthplaces.

"I certainly heard no whispers challenging his accepted backstory," Hines said.

Abraham-Joseph was detained in a targeted operation in the Atlanta area and put in deportation proceedings, U.S.

Customs and Immigration Enforcement spokesman Bryan Cox said.

Abraham-Joseph's attorneys said U.S. immigration officials have known his status at least since 2017, when he applied for a new visa. That application is pending, and his attorneys say he should not be detained.

Both sides agree that Abraham-Joseph came to the U.S. as a child in 2005, and he stayed in after his visa expired in 2006.

"He, like almost two million other children, was left without legal status through no fault of his own," Kuck Baxter Immigration, the law firm representing Abraham-Joseph, said in a statement Monday, adding that he now has U.S. Citizen children of his own.

Super Bowl reaches 100.7 million people, down from 2018

PASADENA, Calif. (AP) — The New England Patriots' competitive but action-starved Super Bowl victory over the Los Angeles Rams was seen by 100.7 million people on

television and streaming services, the smallest audience for football's annual spectacle in a decade.

A boycott by disgruntled New Orleans Saints fans, a

campaign by fans of quarterback Colin Kaepernick and a game with only one touchdown combined to shrink the audience. On CBS alone, the game was seen by 98.2 million people, compared to 103.4 million who watched on NBC last year, according to the Nielsen company.

Since reaching a peak of 114.4 million viewers for the Patriots' 2015 victory over the Seattle Seahawks, the Super

Bowl audience has slipped each year since. The Super Bowl is traditionally the most-watched television event of the year in the U.S., and its audience hadn't dipped below 100 million since the Pittsburgh Steelers-Arizona Cardinals game in 2009.

CBS dealt with a city that held a major grudge. Many fans in New Orleans, where the hometown Saints were victimized by a blown referee's

call toward the end of its loss to the Rams in the NFC championship, skipped the game entirely. Preliminary ratings from New Orleans showed that Super Bowl viewership this year was half what it was in 2018.

New Orleans' Times Picayune newspaper printed a mostly blank front page on Monday with the words, "Super Bowl?" What Super Bowl?"

The newspaper asked, "you think the NFL is sad that the Saints weren't in it to spice up the night?"

There was also a campaign on Twitter by people who said they would not watch the game because of Kaepernick, the former San Francisco 49ers quarterback who hasn't been able to land a job in the NFL since leading demonstrations in protest of police treatment of minorities.

Liam Neeson admits he wanted to kill after friend was raped

LONDON (AP)

— Liam Neeson has said he is ashamed to admit he had violent thoughts about killing a black person after learning that someone close to him had been raped.



Neeson

actor recounted the story in an interview with The Independent while promoting his new thriller "Cold Pursuit," about a father who seeks violent revenge for his son's death.

He said the incident happened some time ago.

Neeson, 66, called his reaction "horrible," saying it taught him a lesson about the "primal need" for revenge.

Neeson, who grew up in Northern Ireland during the decades of violence known as the Troubles, said: "I understand that need for revenge, but it just leads to more revenge, to more killing and more killing, and Northern Ireland's proof of that."

Neeson's publicist didn't immediately respond to a request for comment.

The Northern Ireland-born

In an interview published Monday, Neeson said that after being told the attacker was black, he "went up and down areas with a cosh (stick or truncheon)" hoping a black person "would come out of a pub and have a go at me about something, you know? So that I could kill him."

"It took me a week, maybe a week and a half, to go through that," Neeson said.

Many social media users expressed shock at his admission, accusing Neeson of racism.

The Northern Ireland-born

Demi Lovato deletes Twitter account over 21 Savage backlash

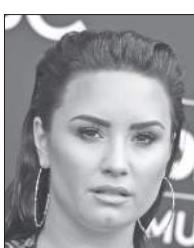
LOS ANGELES (AP) — Singer Demi Lovato has deleted her Twitter account following criticism that she was laughing at memes about 21 Savage.

The Grammy-nominated rapper was taken into federal immigration custody in the Atlanta area early Sunday. An official says the rapper is a British citizen who overstayed his

visa and is also has a felony conviction.

Lovato had tweeted: "So far 21 savage memes have been my favorite part of the Super Bowl." She later clarified she wasn't laughing "at anyone getting deported."

The rapper Wale tweeted



Lovato

he didn't get the joke and rapper Migos wrote it wasn't funny.

Some users thought it was wrong for others to criticize Lovato, who was hospitalized in July following a drug overdose.

The shredded Banksy painting "Love is in the Bin" is being exhibited at the Museum Frieder Burda in Baden-Baden Monday Feb. 4, 2019, where the work will be shown from Feb. 5 to March 3, 2019.

through March 3.

The painting, retitled "Love is in the Bin" after the shredding, will then be moved to the Staatsgalerie Stuttgart mu-

seum on permanent loan.

"Girl With Balloon," which depicts a small child reaching up toward a heart-shaped red balloon, was originally sten-

ciled on a wall in east London and has been endlessly reproduced, becoming one of Banksy's best-known images.

Three's too crowded for wife in shades of grey's marriage

while you're doing that, consult a divorce lawyer.

DEAR ABBY: I have a really bad fear of babies and toddlers. My brother's wife just had a second child, and I can't stand being around them. I get really bad anxiety, so I avoid them. His first child is 8, but she is disabled and is like a toddler. I get freaked out around her, too.

When they come over, I go outside or into my room and hide. On top of that, my sister is pregnant and living here with me and our parents. I'm only 17, so I can't move out. It's hard enough when my brother visits with his kids, but if one lives with me, I know I'm gonna lose it. I'm too afraid to talk to my parents about this.

LOSING IT IN THE WEST

DEAR LOSING IT: You are NOT going to lose it. You ARE going to talk with your parents about this because you cannot keep hiding in your room forever. The longer you do, the higher your level of anxiety will become.

Have you any idea why you feel the way you do about babies and toddlers? Is it their size, their fragility, the sound of their voices? You may need help from a licensed therapist to get past this. (Some individuals do.) It's important that you understand what is driving this panic because, if you don't, you will find yourself increasingly isolated as your friends and relatives start families.

DEAR ABBY

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE



Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

DEAR ABBY: Our high school-age daughter has a great group of friends. They often spend the night at each other's houses for sleepovers. It's usually two to four girls sharing rooms and beds. My dilemma is that one of her friends is a gay boy. She asked if he could stay over. After some thought, our response was that he could, but in a separate bed. What would your answer have been?

NOT IN THE PARENTING HANDBOOK

DEAR NOT: Mine would have been the same as yours, if only for the sake of "propriety."

For an excellent guide to becoming a better conversationalist and a more sociable person, order "How to Be Popular." Send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for \$8 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Popularity Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

DEAR WRONG TURN: Wait a minute! If your husband can't run his company without this woman, then I have to wonder who is the submissive.

If sleeping in an empty master bedroom while he sleeps in another and has a "nonsexual" relationship with this person is what you want for your future, you wouldn't be writing to me. You asked for my opinion, and here it is: Let your husband be himself, permit yourself to be YOURSELF and

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes



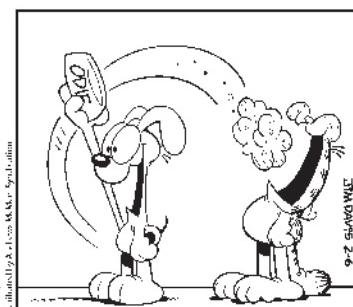
By Bill Waterson



Garfield®



By Jim Davis



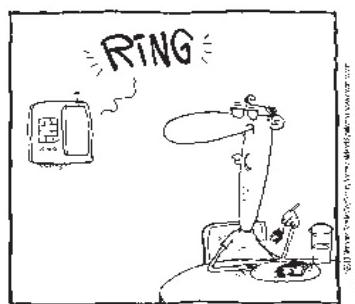
Adam@home



By Bryan Basset



The Duplex



By Glenn McCoy

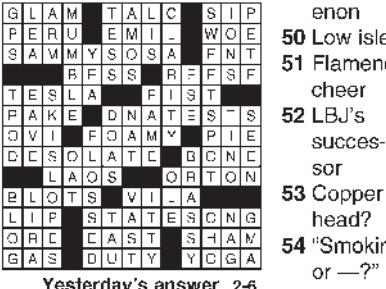


CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS	37	Lost traction	DOWN	22	Michelle Wie's game
1 Scepter	39	Pink wading bird	1 Harvest	23	Cameo shapes
4 Israeli airline			2 Hotel chain	25	Tip off
8 Staffer			3 Bubble-head	26	Awestruck
12 Brit. record label	41	King of Judea	4 Fencer's cry	27	Peace-keeping org.
13 The Big Easy acronym	43	Faux pas	5 Brit's restroom	28	Hurry
14 Not worth debating	44	Belly	6 100 percent	29	Capri, for one
15 Picnic crasher	46	Tribal emblem	7 "Shane" star	30	Pinot —
16 Bird with yellow plumage	50	Coastal diving bird	8 Juan's pals	31	And others (Lat.)
18 Popular takeout entree	55	Chopper	9 Charged bit	35	Sent forth
20 Use a shovel	56	mater	10 Medico	38	Doctrines
21 Golden Fleece ship	57	Bas-soon's kin	11 Ordinal suffix	40	Wall St. debut
24 Atkinson of "Mr. Bean"	58	Director Burton	12 Pair	42	Pair
28 Wood pigeon	59	Longings	17 Fragrant tree	45	Jog
32 Long tale	60	See to	19 Abrupt turn	47	"Toodle-oo!"
33 Mil. morale booster	61	Packed away	48 Way out	49	Viral web phenomenon
34 Gladden Decay			50 Coastal diving bird	51	Low isle
			52 LB's successor	53	Flamenco cheer
			54 Copper head?	55	Laos Orton
			56 "Smoking or —?"		

Solution time: 23 mins.



Yesterday's answer 2-6

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Charlie Heaton, 25; Rick Astley, 53; Kathy Najimy, 62; Tom Brokaw, 79.

Happy Birthday: Take your time and systematically initiate changes you want to make. You have plenty to gain if you are willing to work hard and follow through with what you want to see happen. Reconnecting with old friends will help you put your life in perspective and prompt you to consider making a move or taking on a new project. Your numbers are 2, 9, 15, 29, 33, 38, 42.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): If you feel compelled to make a change, look for a way to alter your appearance without attracting a lot of attention or visit a place you've never been. Don't share personal information or secrets. ☀️☀️

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Stick to the truth, and hang out with people who aren't excessive or who ask for too much. Balance and integrity will help you get ahead and ward off trouble. A personal change will help you financially. ☀️☀️

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Don't worry so much about what others do or think. Do your own thing and enjoy life

and those who fit into your plans. It's OK to be unique and to follow the path that feels most comfortable. Romance is featured. ☀️☀️☀️

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Look for a unique way to use your skills. A little will go a long way if you use precision and detail to make what you have to offer stand out. An unexpected change will turn out to be a blessing in disguise. ☀️☀️

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Dreams can come true if you make plans and follow through. You don't have to spend a lot to have a good time. Look for simple but effective ways to reach your objective. Romance is on the rise. ☀️☀️

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Be careful what you wish for. Changes made can upset someone close to you. Make sure you get the go-ahead before you put your plans in motion. Think matters through, find out where you stand and proceed with confidence. ☀️☀️

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Talk less and do more. If you really want to keep the peace, be sure to live up to your promises. An interesting development will improve your living conditions. Romance will bring you closer to someone you love. ☀️☀️☀️

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Make changes that make sense. Don't let anyone sidetrack you or convince you to do something that is extravagant. Stay in control, and make a point to be a leader, not a follower. ☀️☀️

Cancer Baby: You are compassionate, helpful and insightful. You are resourceful and encouraging.

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY



COURTESY 2007 UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Personal improvements can be made that will calm your nerves and make you feel good about who you are, the way you look and how your life is unfolding. Simplicity and moderation will be the keys to happiness. ☀️☀️

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Embrace change. Look for new beginnings, pursuits and interests. The more you learn and expand your horizons, the more you will end up accomplishing. A job opportunity will encourage you to use your skills and experience in different ways. ☀️☀️

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Use your intuition when dealing with people who can influence your progress or future. A kind word or gesture will go a long way when you want assistance. Romance is on the rise and will improve your personal life. ☀️☀️

Birthday Baby: You are compassionate, helpful and insightful. You are resourceful and encouraging.

To submit astrological questions to the "Dear Eugenia" column, visit Eugenialast.com, or join Eugenia on Twitter/Facebook/LinkedIn.

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku

By Dave Green

6	7	1	9	2				
					6	1	8	
					3			7
		1				3		8
		7					4	6
		4					2	
		8				5		
		6					9	
		2					1	

Difficulty Level ★★★

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Last Friday's Answer

7	9	5	1	3	6	8	2	4
2	6	3	8	4	7	9	1	5
1	8	4	9	2	5	3	6	7
4	5	9	6	8	3	1	7	2
8	7	6	4	1	2	5	9	3
3	1	2	5	7	9	4	8	6
5	3	8	7	6	1	2	4	9
9	4	7	2	5	8	6	3	1
6	2	1	3	9	4	7	5	8

Difficulty Level ★★

WONDERWORD

By DAVID OUVELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backwords. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the WONDERWORD.

CLOUTED CREAM

B	P	C	U	Y	N	I	A	R	G	N	I	K	A	B
D	E	H	U	C	R	E	A	M	Y	M	D	T	L	T
E	M	C	O	R	N	W	A	L	L	I	N	M	L	T
V	B	A	N	E	L	O	H	W	E	K	A	E	U	A
O	R	I	G	N	I	S	S	E	L	S	L	T	F	O
N	O	R	F	E	A	I	M	O	C	T	G	H	R	L
S	K	N	A	D	C	T	©	A	M	A	N	O	E	F
H	E	I	T	A	E	◎	R	I	S	E	E	D	S	O
I	S	A	R	M	W	PLEAHRSHR								
R	H	R	A	S	O	K	P	D	C	N	E	S	N	M
E	I	T	D	N	T	H	G	I	W	N	T	D	E	A
L	R	S	E	E	T	S	E	W	H	T	U	O	S	T
S	E	S	E	A	Y	E	L	L	O	W	O	L	S	I
I	I	W	D	E	S	S	E	R	T	S	N	A	P	O
R	S	C	A	R	O	T	E	N	E	N	O	C	S	N

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2/6

Age, Baking, Carotene, Cold, Cornwall, Cows, Creamy, Curl, Desserts, Devonshire, England, Float, Formation, Freshness, Full, Grainy, Heat, Isle, Less, Made, Mascarpone, Mashed, Methods, Milk, Origins, Pans, Pembrokeshire, Phoenician, Risen, Scone, Skim, Slow, Somerset, Southwest, Strain, Sweet, Teas, Trade, Uncertain, Whipped, Whole, Wight, Yellow Yesterday's Answer: Camouflage

Treasures 13 through 34 can be purchased online at www.WonderWordBooks.com.

STUMPED?

For answers to today's crossword, call

CLASSIFIED ADS



Gemkell Saipan Corporation

is inviting qualified U.S. workers to apply for the following positions:

Accountant (1)

Perform all and/or any combination of routine calculating, posting, and verifying duties to obtain primary financial data for use in maintaining accounting records. Computes and records charges, receipts, refunds, or similar items. Type vouchers, invoices, checks, account statements, reports, and other records, using typewriter or computer. Receive, record, and bank cash, checks, and vouchers. Reconcile or note and report discrepancies found in records. Perform other related duties as required or as assigned.

Requires: High School graduate or a GED Certificate. Some related work experience in tour operation, sales or service related work is preferred. Must be proficient with Microsoft Office applications such as Microsoft Word and Microsoft Excel; and proficient with Accounting software such as the SAP-R3 FICO (Financial and Controlling) and POS-RMS (Point of Sale) systems to record, store, and analyze information. Flexible under pressure. High attention to detail. Able to work independently with detailed projects. Has an aptitude for learning. Must be able and willing to work evenings, holidays, and weekends.

Interested applicants may send their applications or resumes via email to gemkell_recruitment@tanholdings.com or post their resumes on the CNMI Department of Labor Website under JVA no. 19-02-66528. To be considered, resumes/application documents must be submitted not later than 5:00PM on Monday, February 18, 2019. Applications for Employment are available at the Century Tours Office located on the ground floor of the Kanoa Resort. Background checks and pre-employment drug testing will be required prior to employment.



We are seeking for high energy individuals with a positive, can do attitude. Pacific Islands Club, Saipan is inviting qualified, U.S. workers to apply for the following positions:

(1) EXECUTIVE HOUSEKEEPER

Minimum of five (5) years housekeeping manager experience required (minimum 300-room hotel). Motivated self-starter with the ability to manage all functions related to the cleanliness of the hotel including guest rooms, public areas, and back-of-house non-kitchen areas and to ensure the smooth and efficient running of the Laundry Department within the Rooms Division. Monitors the facility to ensure that it remains safe, secure, and well-maintained. Prepare and review financial budget, operational reports, and schedules to ensure accuracy and efficiency including monitoring time control. Set goals and deadlines for the department. Acquire, distribute, and store supplies. Must be able to work graveyard shifts-weekends/holidays.

**Applications must be received by
5:00pm on Monday, February 19th 2019.**
PIC applications are available at the PIC Security Desk by the Loading Dock/Employee Entrance. Incomplete applications will NOT be accepted or considered.
PIC is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

WHATZIT Solution: Not in front of the children

RATES AND POLICIES

Saipan Tribune's Classifieds Section gives you the right exposure without hurting your pockets. Stretch your dollar and get results.

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Saipan Tribune also offers a complete 5-day run of liner ads, for as low as \$15 for garage sales, apartment rentals, help wanted, auto and more. You can choose from any of the packages below.

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- 3-Liner **\$15**
- 5-Liner **\$24**

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Classified Ads

Ads must be submitted before 12 noon 2 days prior to publication date

CANCELLATION

Classified Ads

Cancellations should be made before 12 noon of the day prior to date of publication.

REFUNDS

Refunds will only be made if cancellation deadlines are met. No refunds will be made once ad is already printed.

CHECK YOUR ADS

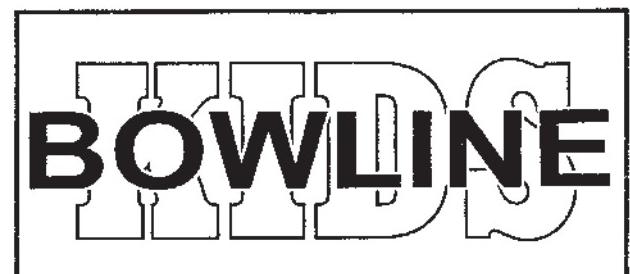
Saipan Tribune will not be responsible for errors after the first day of publication. Errors should be called in before noon of the issue date. Saipan Tribune reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

ADVERTISING POLICY

All advertising in the Saipan Tribune are subject to applicable rate sheet, copies of which are available from the Advertising Sales Department (please call 235-8747, 235-2769 or 235-6397). All ads will be subject to approval prior to publication. We reserve the right to edit, refuse, reject or cancel any ad at any time. Also, Saipan Tribune reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

WHATZIT?

Find the familiar phrase, saying or name in this arrangement of letters.



www.facebook.com/dingbatsgames

Find today's solution in classified section

With surgical precision, Pats cause a whole lot of pain

ATLANTA (AP)—There's something surgical about the Patriots' dynasty that has made the rest of the NFL reel for nearly two decades.

They are 6-3 in Super Bowls in Bill Belichick's reign and with Tom Brady doing the clutch work. Yet the overall points for those games, dating to 2002, stand at 215 for New England, 201 for the opposition.

No blowouts.

They began this unprecedented run using a bruising defense that turned the Rams' Greatest Show on Turf into a tentative outfit that at times looked intimidated 17 years ago. On Sunday night, they brought it all full circle with a masterful defensive performance that humbled the Rams once more, even more so.

The Patriots take down opponents in the most painful ways, whether in shootouts like against Carolina and Atlanta, or in comebacks—Atlanta again, and Seattle. While it's always foolish to get into a tit-for-tat scoring binge with Brady, the 13-3 victory over Los Angeles proved the Pats can do the dirty work, win in the trenches and still survive.

It's maddening for the rest of the NFL. It's maddening for so much of America that wants to see someone—anyone else—shut down this show. It leads to Patriots haters noting that one of the worst officiating errors in NFL history cost the rightful NFC champions, the Saints, a shot at New England. Or that coin tosses have handed the Patriots the ball in a Super Bowl and a conference title game overtime, and eventually they were lifting the Lombardi Trophy.

No matter where football fans outside the New England base turn, however, the finish often hurts.

Why?

Wide receiver Chris Hogan, who has been to Super Bowls in all three of his seasons in New England, explains it well.

"We have been in these situations so many times before in big games and we don't really blink," Hogan said. "We practice these situations, we run these situations, we know how to execute in these situ-

ations—that is what it comes

down to. Four-minute drives and trying to end a football game, take care of the ball, run blocking and doing all of the fundamentals when it really counts. And we have been in this situation before and it just

helps."

The Patriots have been in every position before. So when they need to rely on Brady to light up the scoreboard, they can. And if the game environment calls

for grinding it out, they can.

One thing they never do is back off. In their losses to the Giants and Eagles



ATLANTA, GEORGIA
02.03.19

in the Super Bowl, the Patriots remained aggressive. So

did the opponent, though, and New York and Philadelphia simply made more key plays.

Perhaps only one more key play, but that was enough.

When the Seahawks and Falcons lifted off the accelerator—or made unwise stra-

tegic moves—New England swooped in.

The decisive drive in the fourth quarter Sunday night was typical of the clinical manner in which they keep winning. Sloppy, particularly on third downs, and even a tad frustrated by the 3-3 score, they put together a classic drive: five plays, four of them passes, for 69 yards, capped by rookie Sony Michel's 2-yard touchdown run.

Brady went to his meal tickets and they ate up an LA defense that had been relatively staunch. An 18-yard pass to Rob Gronkowski, followed by 13 yards to game MVP Julian Edelman.

Then a 7-yarder to Rex Burkhead led to a play that causes every defensive coordinator to lose sleep: Gronk going deep and overpowering as well as outreaching defenders—in this case double coverage—for 29 yards to the 2.

Once Michel scored, it seemed inevitable the Rams would find nothing but disappointment the rest of the way.

Leave it to Gronkowski to sum up what at some points looked like a so-so season for the Patriots. Yet there they were, at the summit again.

"I'll tell you this, it was the most satisfying year I've ever been a part of," said the star tight end who just might have played his last game; he's contemplating retirement, as he did last year before returning. "How we came together, the obstacles we had to overcome, the grind from the beginning of training camp to now. That was our identity; wear the other team out."

"We weren't making big, flashy plays all the time ... but we stuck together, we grinded, ran the ball."

"Now we're Super Bowl champions, we're world champions."

And the rest of the NFL writhes in pain.



New England Patriots' Julian Edelman holds the trophy after the NFL Super Bowl 53 football game against the Los Angeles Rams, Sunday, Feb. 3, 2019, in Atlanta. The Patriots won, 13-3, while Edelman was named the Most Valuable Player.

McVay looks to future after Rams' ride derails in Super Bowl

ATLANTA (AP)—Sean McVay has had very few bad days during his two seasons in charge of the Los Angeles Rams. His coaching tenure had been a rocket ride all the way to the Super Bowl.

Until Bill Belichick sent this bright football mind and his exciting team plummeting back to Earth.

What McVay does about it will determine whether the Rams are still an ascending powerhouse or another NFL contender broken by the New England Patriots.

After Belichick's defense turned McVay's offense into the worst version anyone had ever seen, the Rams' 33-year-old offensive guru was visibly frustrated and embarrassed. His clenched jaw in

postgame interviews also signified a determination to never let it happen again.

"The thing that is so tough about all of this is the finality to it," McVay said Sunday night after his Rams failed to score a touchdown for only the second time in his 36 games in charge. "Usually, if you go through some adversity, you get a chance to bounce back right away. This one is going to stick with you. It just stings in your gut. I'm still kind of numb right now, but I have so much love for these players and these coaches. That's where it really eats at you, because you feel like you didn't do your part to help them achieve success.

"This is going to be a very humbling, tough one that you

learn from. But you have to demonstrate that mental toughness you talk about, and that is all I know how to do."

McVay could have been speaking partly to convince himself after he coached only the second team in 53 Super Bowls to fail to score a touchdown. The wunderkind's confidence appeared to be shaken to its core by a New England defense that held the 11th highest-scoring team in NFL history to 260 total yards, six first downs in the first three quarters and their fewest points in McVay's era.

"It's embarrassing," left tackle Andrew Whitworth said. "It stings to play that way. You'd almost rather score a ton and lose that way, but that would take away

from what the defense did. They gave us every opportunity to win."

McVay thrives on X's and O's, and he will have six months to scheme new ways to attack the similar zone defenses used late in the year by Detroit, Chicago and New England to throttle the Rams' passing game. He also will endeavor to teach Jared Goff to make better decisions under pressure after the young quarterback's stinker of a Super Bowl.

General manager Les Snead has big calls to make on soon-to-be free agents and roster vacancies. The Rams will return with a wealth of talent, but they must determine whether their 4-3 record in their final seven games was a sign of bigger flaws.

cameras.

"Looking at this crowd here, you'd think we won the Super Bowl," Miami owner Stephen Ross said.

Flores was the first person the Dolphins interviewed after they fired coach Adam Gase on Dec. 31. They decided on Jan. 11 to offer the job to Flores, the Patriots' defensive play-caller, but had to wait until New England's season ended to complete an agreement.

CINCINNATI (AP)—After 16 years without a playoff win under Marvin Lewis, the Bengals decided to try something different. But they had to wait more than a month before hiring Zac Taylor as their next coach in hopes of ending a long streak of futility.

Taylor's already been in town enough to know the history.

The Rams' quarterbacks coach reached a deal Monday a few hours after LA's

joined the latest wave—turning to a young, offensive-minded coach.

"Zach is a bright coach with an offensive mind and background, which is important to have in today's NFL," owner Mike Brown said in a statement. "And he's young. He embraces new ideas and new ways to do things, which will be a good thing for us."

Taylor is the Bengals'

youngest head coach since they hired Dave Shula at age 32 in 1992. Shula went on to lose 50 games faster than any coach in NFL history, finishing 19-52.

Flores goes from Super Bowl champ to Dolphins coach

In Florida, hours after his team won the Super Bowl, New England Patriots

Ball included in 6-player deal for Davis



LOS ANGELES— Trade talks between the Los Angeles Lakers and New Orleans Pelicans revolving around Anthony Davis are reportedly heating up.

On Monday, Adrian Wojnarowski of ESPN reported the Lakers have increased their offer to the Pelicans to include “multiple young players, multiple draft picks and Pelicans salary-cap relief” as they continue their hot pursuit of the superstar big man.

Both Wojnarowski and Shams Charania of The Athletic and Stadium reported Davis would consider signing a long-term extension with the Lakers, New York Knicks, Los Angeles Clippers and Milwaukee Bucks, which perhaps limits his trade market to those teams.

Any other organization that trades for him would run the risk of Davis leaving as a free agent after the 2019-20 season. On the other hand, getting the chance to sell him on a culture, roster and coaching staff for a season-and-a-half might be worth the risk for contenders.

Plus, it’s hard to imagine the Clippers, Knicks or Bucks offering an appealing trade package. The Bucks could build a deal around Khris Middleton, but he’s due to be a free agent after this season and could sign elsewhere, leaving the Pelicans high and dry.

Ditto for Tobias Harris and the Clippers, and it’s fair to wonder whether the Clippers have enough appealing assets to get the deal done either way.

While the Knicks could potentially offer the best possible deal over the summer, that’s contingent on them winning the NBA draft lottery, thus giving the Pelicans the opportunity to select Zion Williamson. Until the lottery, any deal with the Knicks would not only be a major risk but also illogical, since Davis would improve New York and lessen the likelihood of the Knicks finishing with the best possible lottery odds.

If the Pelicans insist on moving Davis by Thursday’s trade deadline, the Lakers can offer the best possible deal (barring a surprise mystery team emerging). The Lakers could build a package around some combination of Lonzo Ball, Kyle Kuzma, Brandon Ingram, Ivica Zubac, Josh Hart and draft picks.

While the Pelicans could potentially get more from the Knicks or the Boston Celtics over the summer—Jayson Tatum would easily trump any of the Lakers’ young players, while the Celtics also have a treasure trove of future picks—the Celtics weren’t among the teams Davis would reportedly be willing to sign with long term. Other factors could limit what Boston is willing to offer, too.



AP
Los Angeles Clippers' Montrezl Harrell, bottom, and New Orleans Pelicans' Anthony Davis fight for the ball during the first half of an NBA basketball game Monday, Jan. 14, 2019, in Los Angeles.

Heat to retire Bosh's jersey

In Miami, Chris Bosh, who had arguably the biggest rebound and assist in Miami Heat history, will have his No. 1 jersey retired by the franchise on March 26.

The Heat made the announcement Monday.

Bosh played parts of six seasons in Miami, before his career was cut short by recurring issues with blood clots. He last played for the Heat in 2016.

Bosh helped Miami reach the NBA Finals four times and win championships in 2012 and 2013. He grabbed a rebound and tossed the ball out to Ray Allen for a game-tying 3-pointer with 5.2 seconds left in regulation of Game 6 of the 2013 NBA Finals against San Antonio, a game that the Heat would win in overtime to force Game 7.

Alonzo Mourning, Tim Hardaway and Shaquille O’Neal are the other Heat players to have jerseys retired. Dwyane Wade, Udonis Haslem and LeBron James will likely receive the same tribute in the coming year.

Antetokounmpo powers Bucks past Nets

NEW YORK (AP)—They already had the NBA’s best record, so Giannis Antetokounmpo knew the Bucks were a good team.

A powerful finish to a five-game road trip showed him they might be even better than that.

“To finish our road trip with four wins in a row says a lot about this team and how great it can be,” Antetokounmpo said.

Antetokounmpo had 30 points, 15 rebounds and nine assists, and Milwaukee beat the cold-shooting Brooklyn Nets 113-94 on Monday night.

The injury-depleted Nets missed 19 of their first 20 3-point attempts, making it another easy night for the team with the league’s top record. Brooklyn finished 5 for 42 (11.9 percent) behind the arc and had its nine-game home winning streak snapped.

Malcolm Brogdon added 16 points and Eric Bledsoe had 15 for the Bucks, who won their fourth straight—all by double digits—after dropping the first game of the trip in Oklahoma City.

The teams entered with the

two best records in the East since Dec. 7, with the Bucks coming in 22-6 and Brooklyn 20-8. But the Nets were minus a lot of the firepower that produced that strong stretch.

“Brooklyn’s really banged up so it’s almost not fair, but for us at the end of a road trip it’s a good win,” Bucks coach Mike Budenholzer said.

Chris Paul scored 18 and Kenneth Faried had 17 points and 14 rebounds for the Rockets, who were without two starters.

Josh Jackson scored 25 points for the Suns.

Pistons 129, Nuggets 103

In Detroit, Andre Drummond scored 14 of his season-high 27 points in the third quarter and Detroit snapped Denver’s six-game winning streak.

Detroit blew a 25-point lead in a loss to the Los Angeles Clippers on Saturday, but the Pistons poured it on this time. Blake Griffin added 17 points for Detroit, and Reggie Jackson scored 14.

Trey Lyles had 20 points for the Nuggets, who dropped out of a tie with Golden State for the best record in the Western Conference.

Harden joined Wilt Chamberlain, Michael Jordan and Rick Barry as the only NBA players with 20 games of

least 40 points in the first 50 of a season.

Harden, who also had eight rebounds and six assists, extended his streak of games with at least 30 points to 27, third-longest in NBA history.

Chris Paul scored 18 and Kenneth Faried had 17 points and 14 rebounds for the Rockets, who were without two starters.

Josh Jackson scored 25 points for the Suns.

Kings 127, Spurs 112

In Sacramento, rookie forward Marvin Bagley III had a career-high 24 points and 12 rebounds for his third straight double-double, leading Sacramento past San Antonio for its seventh straight home win.

De’Aaron Fox added 20 points and Buddy Hield scored 18 to extend Sacramento’s longest home winning streak since a 14-gamer in 2005-06. That was the last time the Kings made the playoffs, but Sacramento (28-25) is positioned to make a run at a postseason spot this season.

The Kings trail the Los Angeles Clippers by a half-game for eighth place in the Western Conference.

DeMar DeRozan had 24 points and LaMarcus Aldridge added 22 for the Spurs, who lost the opener of their

annual eight-game rodeo road trip.

Hawks 137, Wizards 129

In Washington, Taurean Prince scored 12 of his 21 points in the fourth quarter and hit five of Atlanta’s 20 3-pointers against Washington.

Rookie guard Kevin Huerter added 19 points and also hit five 3s in his return to the region where he played college ball at Maryland. Two of those 3s came during an early 16-2 run that put the Hawks up 28-16 late in the first quarter, a lead they did not give back.

Vince Carter scored 16 points in 16 minutes after halftime. John Collins had 15 points and 11 rebounds despite exiting at the break with a cut on his face.

Trae Young added 10 points and 10 assists as nine Hawks reached double figures. Atlanta finished 20 of 41 from beyond the arc to close a 4-3 road trip.

Bradley Beal had 18 of his

27 points in the fourth for the Wizards, who slipped into a 10th-place tie with Orlando in the Eastern Conference play-off race, three games back of eighth-place Miami.

Pacers 109, Pelicans 107

In New Orleans, Darren Collison capped a 22-point performance with a 3-pointer, a 20-foot jumper with the shot clock winding down and a free throw during the final two minutes as Indiana held off depleted New Orleans.

Domantas Sabonis had 16 points and 13 rebounds, and Myles Turner added 15 points and nine rebounds for the Pacers, who won their second straight.

The Pelicans, playing without five of their most productive players—including disgruntled All-Star Anthony Davis—have lost three straight. Each loss has been by six or fewer points to teams currently occupying playoff positions in the standings.

Jahlil Okafor had 25 points and 13 rebounds for New Orleans. Jrue Holiday added 19 points, 11 rebounds and nine assists.

Sponsors, supporters rally for Saipan Marathon

Sponsors and supporters are toeing the line in anticipation of Saipan Marathon 2019 set for March 9.

The annual events features 10K, half marathon, and full

Little League managers meeting Feb. 9

Saipan Little League Baseball, Inc. is calling all managers of teams interested in competing in the Minor and Majors divisions to attend a meeting on Feb. 9.

The meeting is set for 10am at the Department of Public Land's ground and transportation office in Lower Base.

With the massive damage caused by Super Typhoon Yutu at the Oleai Sports Complex, SLLB is planning



marathon courses and is a signature event of the Marianas Visitors Authority, which has been promoting the event extensively over the last several months, particularly in The Marianas' major

to hold competitions only for the two divisions. Junior and Senior League games are played at the Francisco "Tan Ko" Palacios Ballfield, which unfortunately will not be available this year, while SLLB officials may look for alternative venues if the Miguel "Tan Ge" Basa Pangelinan Ballfield will be unplayable this season.

For more information about the meeting, contact Mike Borja at 322-9498. (PR)



ROSELYN B. MONROY
The Talaabwogh Falcons' Achilles Evangelista waits for the pitch from the Kagman Little Legals' G-Boy Pangelinan during their Majors division title game in the 2018 Saipan Little League Baseball at Miguel "Tan Ge" Basa Pangelinan Ballfield.

CAROL

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playing without world No. 21 Wang Qiang, but still have two players in the Top 100 (Women's Tennis Association) in No. 40 Shuai Zhang and No. 42 Saisai Zheng plus No. 188 Shuai Peng, No. 550 Zhaoxuan Yang, and No. 18 (doubles) Yi-Fan Xu. Completing the China squad is non-playing captain Wei-Guang Yang.

The favored team will go up against Pacific Oceania today at the National Tennis Centre with the former bannered by world No. 342 Abigail Tere-Apisah of Papua New Guinea. Tere-Apisah is the only active pro player on the crew of Pacific Oceania captain and Tahiti's Gilles De Gouy. Steffi Carruthers of Samoa played in the Fed Cup Group II tie last year, but last competed in the pro ranks in 2017, while PNG's Violet Apisah just graduated from the ITF Juniors and had her last event in September during the US Open Juniors. Lee is still

playing in the ITF Juniors Circuit and the youngest member of the team at 17. The Commonwealth player started the 2019 with an appearance in the main draw of the Australian Open Juniors in Melbourne.

After today's game (two singles and one doubles), Lee and company will face South Korea tomorrow, while their last match in the pool is against Indonesia. South Korea's roster is made up of players Na-Lae Han, Su Jeong Jang, Sunam Jeong, and Na Ri Kim, and captain Young-Ja Choi, while Indonesia has Beatrice Gumulya, Aldila Sutjadi, Deria Nur Haliza, Jessy Rompies, and captain Deddy Tedjamukti.

The top finisher in each pool will battle for the ticket to the World Group II playoffs that will take place in April, while the third placers will also square off to determine which nation will stay in the zone's Group I. The loser will be relegated to Group II along with the fourth finisher in Pool B.

MIYAWAKI

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in the division. In their first game, Miyawaki and Kwon dominated Daniel Heo and Jaehoon Son, 4-0, 4-1. Then in the semiinals, Kwon and Miyawaki also took only to two sets to eliminate Daniel Kang and Andrew Chung, 4-2, 4-3. Kang and Chung set up a semis showdown against Miyawaki and Kwon after slipping past Anthony Gregoire and Helen Kim, 4-3, 1-4, 5-2, at the lower half of the draw.

At the upper half, Ryu and Cho marched into the finals after sweeping Isaac Heo and Serin Chung, 4-3, 4-1, and Steven Goodwin and Jeffrey Seo, 4-3, 4-3. Seo and Goodwin barged into the semis following a 4-2, 4-2 triumph over Allan Lee and Andy Kim.

Meanwhile, two other pairs secured doubles titles in the fundraising tournament.

Juncheol Hwang and Anna Kwon notched the U12 doubles crown after outclassing

Serin Chung and Hoo Wang in straight sets, 4-2, 4-3. Earlier, the finalists also needed only two sets to boot out their respective semis opponents with Hwang and Kwon downing Andy and Dana Lee, 4-0, 4-0, and Serin Chung and Wang topping Irin Chung and Savita Sikkel, 4-2, 4-2. Chung and Sikkel went on to settle for third place after outlasting the Lees, 7-5.

In the U18 novice doubles finale, Alex Park and Junhee Lee prevailed over Gillian Villagomez and Cole Chambers, 4-1, 4-1. Park and Lee clinched the division championship without dropping a single set in the tournament as they also swept Andy Cho and Junbum Huh, 4-3, 4-0, and Michael Lee and Grace Choi, 4-0, 4-1, in the earlier games. Villagomez and Chambers, on the other hand, had a tougher first victory against A.J. Hudkins and Brian Kim, 3-4, 4-0, 5-4, while their second (versus Mauryzon Tybaco and Kuu Nishimura) was won via straight sets, 4-2, 4-2.

source markets.

Joining the MVA as exclusive sponsors of this year's marathon are Skechers and Powerade. Platinum sponsor is IT&E. Gold sponsors are Hotel Association of the Northern Mariana Islands, Hyatt Regency Saipan, and Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan. Silver sponsors are T Galleria by DFS, Tokyo Jusen, DEEN International, Grandvrio Resort Saipan, The Athlete's Foot, Boarderline, and All Star Sporting Goods. Additional sponsors are Vladivostok International Ice Run and Skydive Saipan.

"Saipan Marathon is the largest annual signature event of The Marianas—last year we had nearly 1,000 runners—and one the greatest opportunities to show off the beauty of our destination," said MVA managing director Christopher A. Concepcion. "We are extremely grateful to all our sponsors

and supporters who have stepped up this year to help us put on a memorable event for the runners, especially in light of budget reductions following Super Typhoon Yutu. We couldn't do it without them, and we are looking forward to another spectacular race in March."

Aid stations will be manned by Hyatt Regency Saipan, Pacific Development Inc., Kinpachi Restaurant, Grandvrio Resort Saipan, Fiesta Resort & Spa, Kanoa Resort, Coca-Cola/Foremost, Pacific Islands Club, Imperial Pacific Int'l CNMI, IT&E, Aqua Resort Club, Kensington Hotel Saipan, Tasi Tours Transportation, and Marianas Base Camp.

Supporting agencies and companies are American Memorial Park, Dept. of Public Safety, Dept. of Fire & Emer-

gency Medical Services, Div. of Parks and Grounds, Dept. of Public Works, Dept. of Public Lands, Saipan Mayor's Office, Hawaiian Rock Products, and Marianas Health Services.

The early bird deadline for Saipan Marathon is set Feb. 9 and online registration is available in English at www.webscorer.com. The international registration fee for the full marathon (ages 16 and older allowed) is \$90 and for the half marathon and 10K is \$60. For U.S. and CNMI

SIS

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game in the league and hopes their hardwork throughout the season will help them gain the finals trophy this year and rebound from last season's heartbreaker.

"I was really happy about it (making it to the championship game) because it's a good final chance to win it all for the seniors from both the boys and girls teams. We practice with the girls often and it's great to see that both of our teams' hard work paid off," Hudkins said.

While Miyawaki is excited for the winner-take-all game today, she acknowledged that GCA will not be an easy foe and that they will have to overcome both the Lady Eagles' aggressive style of play and any negative emotions that might pop up in the most important match of the season.

"GCA is very strong. They are very consistent and are very aggressive," Miyawaki said. "I believe that we have to communicate well and keep a positive attitude to beat GCA. We can't waste time on feeling sad or mad."

Miyawaki's teammate and fellow starting spiker, Sally Lai, agreed with the former's observations on what will it



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan staff and officers are stationed at the 10K turnaround point along Beach Road during last year's Saipan Marathon.

residents with valid photo ID showing proof of residency and who register by Feb. 8, the registration fee for the full marathon is \$55 and for the half marathon and 10K is \$45. Registrants are reminded to select their proper category, International or CNMI/U.S., on the website. Rates will increase after Feb. 9.

For more information, visit The Marianas Calendar at www.mymarianas.com or contact MVA Community Projects Division at 1-670-664-3210 or communityprojects@mymarianas.com. (PR)

take to defeat GCA.

"I believe that if our team continues to play as one with all our individual strengths combined, [and if we] stay calm, composed, and consistent, I think we have a chance of beating GCA," Lai said.

SIS boys team captain Junhee Lee agreed that it will take a cohesive team effort for them to secure the coveted trophy. With the Geckos responsible for dealing the Eagles their only loss this season, Lee and company know what it takes to overpower the favored team.

"The only thing that we have to do to beat GCA in the finals is just play what we practiced," the 12th grader said. "If we communicate and play the best we can play, then I believe that we will be able to beat them."

Hudkins added that they have a good chance to stifle the Eagles because they are more physically and mentally prepared than in the previous years.

"I have complete faith that our team is fully capable of winning the championship. The main thing is to have a good mindset and concentrate," Hudkins said. "We've had trouble in the past composing ourselves, but we are now very experienced and us, seniors, are strong mentally."

4th IT&E Saipan Aquathlon and 10K Pathway Run

PHOTOS By ROBY N. PAMINTUAN



Jinju Thompson waves to the camera as she heads to the swim-run transition area at Kilili Beach during last Saturday's 4th IT&E Saipan Aquathlon and 10K Pathway Run.



David Boyer goes to the swim-run transition area.



Kosuke Sato celebrates at the finish line of the 10K run.



Two runners are in a close race to the finish line.



A swimmer slows down a bit as he proceeds to the swim-run transition area.



Kento Akimaru, left, and Jinnosuke Suzuki are out of the water and heading to the swim-run transition area.



Travis Spaeth nears the finish line.



Sakiko Eda checks her time after making it to the finish line of the 10K race.

With surgical precision,
Pats cause a
whole lot of pain

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Saipan Tribune

Sports



Ball included
in 6-player deal
for Davis

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28 WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 6, 2019

SAIPAN TRIBUNE

SIS seeks redemption

By ROBY N. PAMINTUAN
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CORRESPONDENT

After falling short in its title bid last season, Saipan International School is determined to finish on top this time around in the 2018-2019 Commonwealth Coalition of Private Schools Association Volleyball League.

The Lady Geckos lost to Grace Christian Academy in last year's finale and SIS had the same fate in the boys division when it was beaten by Mt. Carmel School. This sea-

son, SIS eyes revenge, as it squares off anew with GCA in the girls championship game at 3:30pm at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium, while the Geckos will also be pitted



Miyawaki, Kwon survive finale

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

 Malika Miyawaki and David Kwon were put to the test in the finals of the U18 advanced doubles event of the Saipan International School Student Council Tennis Tournament and passed it.

Kwon and Miyawaki went through three sets before beating Sam Ryu and Min Cho last Sunday at the Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan tennis courts and clinching the last title at stake in the

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ROSELYN B. MONROYO
David Kwon chases the ball at the baseline during his and Malika Miyawaki's finals match against Sam Ryu and Min Cho in the U18 advanced doubles event in the Saipan International School Student Council Tennis Tournament last Sunday at the Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan tennis courts.

two-weekend competition. The winning duo prevailed in the first set 4-2, but failed to finish the finals early when Ryu and Cho pulled off a tough 4-3 victory in the second to force the decider. In the third set, the opposing teams went back-and-forth anew and they were forced to play extended minutes before Kwon and Miyawaki escaped with a 5-3 triumph.

The eventual champions' hard-earned win over Ryu and Cho was the only three-set match they played

against the Eagles in the boys title match at 4:30pm.



finals and have a chance to redeem themselves.

"I was happy that both SIS teams made it to the finals. Last year, we also both made it to the finals, but both of us lost," Miyawaki said. "We

hope to get the championship for both the girls and boys this time."

A.J. Hudkins, the Geckos

starting blocker and middle hitter, will be playing in his last

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Carol, Pacific Oceania teammates debut against China


Fed Cup
by BNP PARIBAS

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

The CNMI's Carol Lee and her Pacific Oceania teammates have a tough first round opponent in China, as the 2019 Fed Cup by BNP Paribas, Asia/Oceania Zone Group I kicks off today in Astana, Kazakhstan.

China is favored to win the tournament where a slot to the World Group II playoffs is at stake. The frontrunners are in Pool B with Pacific Oceania, South Korea, and Indonesia, while Pool A has the host country, India, and Thailand.

The Chinese would be

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CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

From left, Steffi Carruthers, Abigail Tere-Apisah, Violet Apisah, and Carol Lee pose for a photo during a training session for the 2019 Fed Cup by BNP Paribas, Asia/Oceania Zone Group I in Astana, Kazakhstan.